

Gulf mine threat remains

BAHRAIN (R) — Drifting mines sown during the Iran-Iraq war will threaten shipping in the Gulf for years to come but Western navies can do little to solve the problem, a British naval commander said Saturday. Commander David Cardigan, head of Britain's mine counter-measures unit in the Gulf, told reporters that until Iran and Iraq revealed where they had laid the mines and asked for help in clearing them, no one could tackle the problem effectively. "The main threat comes from mines moored in territorial waters off Iran and Iraq," Cardigan said on board the unit's command and support ship Herald. "There are many left and they pose a potential threat throughout the Gulf. But until the political situation changes, there is no longer any clearly defined task we can do." Britain said earlier this month it would withdraw its three minehunters and their two support ships from the Gulf by March, following similar moves by the Italians, Dutch, and Belgians. Three minehunters will be on standby in the Mediterranean while Britain's Arima patrol of three frigates or destroyers will remain to guard British-registered ships.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز صحيفة سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي.

U.S. tries to smooth out Taba problems

CAIRO (AP) — An American official Saturday downplayed problems between Egypt and Israel on the disputed border area of Taba as the United States intensified efforts to resolve the thorny issue. Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo, told reporters following a meeting with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid that he believed both the Egyptian and Israeli governments were trying hard to work out the handover of the tiny beach area according to the five-member international arbitration committee's Sept. 29 ruling. A well-informed Egyptian source who spoke on condition he not be further identified said that Abraham Sofaer, the State Department's legal adviser, was due in Cairo Sunday for talks on Taba with Egyptian officials. "I have read both in Egyptian and Israeli newspapers alarming stories about the breakdown of talks on Taba," Wisner told reporters. "There are extremely competent diplomats working on the decision who have no intention to see it crumble before them so I don't share the alarm I read in the press. 'There's work to be done to find the solution to protect the image of everybody and I am confident that we are working to achieve this aim.'"

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Agreements reached in several key fields; means reviewed to boost trade volume

Joint committee meets in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee opened its ninth meeting here Saturday and a senior Egyptian official said seriousness and positive moves towards further enhancing bilateral cooperation characterised the talks.

The talks, co-chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki, covered means to arrive at an annual bilateral trade volume of \$350 million, Egyptian Information Minister Sawfat Al Sharif was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The meeting decided to increase allocations for jointly-organised trade fairs and the commercial centres in Amman and Cairo, Sharif said.

The two sides agreed to hold periodic meetings between private sector industrialists from

both sides to pave the way for enhanced industrial cooperation, Sharif said.

In the field of planning, experts from the two sides will meet every three months to coordinate positions on national and regional plans, the minister said.

The committee assessed the joint steps taken in the field of animal and marine wealth and coordination of agricultural policy in a move to attain integration between the two countries. The committee reviewed the economic and technical feasibility of linking the national power grids

of the two countries.

The committee decided to expand the Aqaba-Nuweibe sea-land route service and also reviewed progress in implementation of the three-year scientific cooperation agreement between the two countries.

The committee also discussed moves taken to sign an agreement of cooperation between Petra and the Egyptian Middle East News Agency as well as cooperation in radio transmission and production of television programmes.

The committee decided to form a joint panel to provide integrated services in the tourism sector and to facilitate travel procedures between the two countries. It also discussed recommendations dealing with the production of medicine, health cooperation and Egyptian workers in Jordan.

At the conclusion of the first session, Sharif said that "Egypt and Jordan have made successful, serious, and positive strides on the road of cooperation through the implementation of the committee's earlier resolutions and recommendations."

"Keenness to eliminate obstacles facing the implementation of resolutions dominated the talks, Sharif said.

He quoted Sedki and Rifai as saying that the implementation of the committee's resolutions "is within the framework of His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak's aspirations, and the two people's hopes

(Continued on page 2)



Offshore power boat race held in Aqaba

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor attend an Offshore Power Boat Race held in Aqaba Friday (see page 3)

Palestinian killed, 8 injured in clashes with Israeli troops

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — One Palestinian protester was fatally shot and at least eight were wounded during sporadic clashes between Israeli soldiers and demonstrators Saturday, reports said.

Among the wounded was a three-year-old boy from Shati refugee camp who was injured by a plastic bullet. Arab news reports said a 70-year-old man also was wounded.

Clashes erupted Saturday in at least three refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and two villages in the West Bank.

Israeli Radio said a 23-year-old died of wounds suffered after he was shot by troops in a village near Bethlehem.

Two other Palestinians were wounded in the same clash in the village of Sureif, while two others were wounded in a village near the West Bank city of Nabulus, the army said.

At least four other woundings occurred in Gaza, reports said.

Two Palestinian teenagers from the Balata refugee camp near Nabulus were also treated for beating injuries to the face, said the reports and an official at Al Irtihad hospital in Nabulus.

The army's chief military prosecutor Amnon Strasnov rejected charges by legislators that new orders loosening restrictions on the firing of plastic bullets were illegal.

The orders since the start of the uprising are legal and within the limits of the law... we are

dealing with mass provocation, violent demonstrations and you can't stand still with your hands in your pocket without responding," he told Israeli Radio.

The Israeli defence ministry said last week that a new military crackdown meant soldiers could fire plastic bullets at Palestinians involved in violent protests or running away afterwards.

Plastic bullets, introduced by the army as a non-lethal way of breaking up demonstrations, have so far caused at least 48 deaths, centrist legislator Amnon Rubenstein said.

At least 378 Palestinians have died in the Palestinian revolt since it erupted in December 1987.

Iraq urges pressure on Iran over 598

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq called for pressure on Iran to implement a U.N. resolution to end the Gulf war as a U.N. mediator began talks in Baghdad to revive stalled peace talks.

"Time has come for the world community to force Iran to implement (U.N.) Resolution 598 in full, to help achieve a just, comprehensive and honourable peace in the Gulf region," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson Saturday discussed strengthening the ceasefire and implementing the U.N. peace call with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

Thawra said Eliasson, who arrived in Baghdad Friday night, would find Iraq fully committed to its peaceful position and that it has no ambitions on the territory of others."

The U.N. mediator flew to Iraq after talks with leaders in Tehran as part of his search for incentives that might lure the Gulf war foes back to the bargaining table after an 11-week stalemate.

Eliasson, Sweden's U.N. ambassador, was quoted by INA as saying he discussed a range of issues in Tehran but it was too early to say if his mission would produce positive results.

"There has been a need for a new incentive," he said. "I hope this stage will be a contribution towards achieving peace."

Eliasson stopped in the southern Iraqi port of Basra Friday with General Slavko Jovic, Yugoslav commander of a United Nations observer force monitoring the August Gulf ceasefire.

Eliasson said talks with Aziz and other officials were scheduled for all day Saturday and Sunday morning and that a definite resumption of the peace talks launched in August could not be confirmed until he returned to

New York and consulted with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"I am now looking forward to interesting talks here," he said. "We hope of course that the process will move on and that this round of visits will move it along."

Eliasson said he could not go into the substance of his talks in Tehran earlier this week or say whether the Iranian government had changed any of its conditions for resuming the talks.

Before arriving in Baghdad late Friday, the U.N. official and several aides flew up and down the Shatt Al Arab waterway which before the war, had formed the boundary between Iran and Iraq.

Asked about the situation along the front, he said there had been exchanges of fire in December, "but not of the nature that would endanger the ceasefire."

Iraq insists the ceasefire should be fixed before talks move on to other parts of Resolution 598. It says dredging of the Shatt Al Arab border waterway is part of the resolution.

Iraq rejects clearing the waterway of war debris before its legal status is resolved. The dispute over the Shatt Al Arab was one of the main causes of the eight-year war.

Tehran maintains that top priority should be given to the withdrawal of Iraqi troops it says still occupy 1,000 square kilometres of its western territory.

Eliasson's latest effort to enforce Resolution 598 began Jan. 23 in Iran. There he held four days of talks.

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Eliasson as saying at Tehran airport Friday that his talks "were useful and fruitful." He did not elaborate.



Zaid Rifai



Atef Sedki

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Iraq plans Arab airlines link

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Airways said Saturday it had agreed on a commercial and technical tie-up with four other Arab airlines to beat off European competitors. Airline general manager Nouruddin Saff told a news conference the plan linked the national carriers of Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, North Yemen and Jordan. "Arab cooperation is a must now because we are threatened by the European Community group of airlines which will come into effect in 1992," he said. The Arab airlines had agreed to establish technical and commercial integration this year, he said.

India involved in Kampuchean talks

NEW DELHI (AP) — A Cabinet minister is scheduled to leave for Jakarta to intensify Indian efforts to reach a settlement on the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, news reports said Saturday. The Press Trust of India news agency said K. Natwar Singh, the minister of state for external affairs, would leave Sunday for the Indonesian capital, the venue for next month's informal talks on the Kampuchean issue. Singh's departure was announced a day after Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh ended a five-day visit to New Delhi.

Sudanese leader visits Baghdad

NICOSIA (AP) — Visiting Sudanese President Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani started talks in Baghdad Saturday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency reported. Mirghani arrived earlier in the day accompanied by a high-level delegation for an official visit. The agency said the Iraqi side in the talks included First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan and Information Minister Latif Nassif Jasssem. The Sudanese delegation included Ibrahim Al Amin, state minister for Sudanese working abroad, and Presidency Secretary-General Ahmad Hussein Al Rifai.

Kissinger: Moscow comfortable with Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, just back from talks in Moscow, told President Bush Saturday that Soviet leaders were confident they could work with the new administration. "I had no impression of impatience. Quite the contrary, they (the Soviets) know there will be a productive relationship and that the administration is working in order to give it the best possible content," Kissinger told reporters after a 75-minute talk with Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. He said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other officials with whom he spoke during a private visit to Moscow were comfortable with Bush's attitude. "You people are more anxious than the Soviets are," he told reporters. "They are quite relaxed."

Arab ministers to hold AIDS conference

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab health ministers will meet in Libya in March to discuss ways of fighting AIDS, the United Arab Emirates News Agency WAM said Saturday. It said among the topics at the March 18-19 meeting would be ways of making blood transfusions safer. Transfusions of contaminated blood are one of the ways the killer disease is spread.

Azerbaijan premier replaced

MOSCOW (R) — The prime minister of Soviet Azerbaijan has been replaced less than two weeks after 2,500 officials and party workers in the republic were disciplined over ethnic unrest linked with the province of Nagorno-Karabakh. "Comrade (Gassan) Seidov was relieved of his duties as chairman of the Azerbaijan council of ministers to retire for health reasons," said a decree issued by the Presidium of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, the republic's highest state body. A spokesman for the Azerbaijan news agency said the decree, issued Friday, named Seidov's successor as Ayaz Muttalibov, one of several deputy prime ministers.

Sharon airs death threat against Arafat

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Industry Minister Ariel Sharon issued a veiled threat against Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday saying there could never be peace in the Middle East as long as the PLO leader "runs around alive."

Sharon, who spoke in an interview with Israeli Radio, was voicing "a personal opinion that Arafat should be killed," Sharon's spokesman Moshe Behagoun told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"He (Sharon) says many times that if it were possible, he would want to kill him (Arafat)," Behagoun added.

The remarks by Sharon, who was forced out in 1983 as defence minister after Israeli soldiers and allied militiamen massacred Palestinians in

Beirut in 1982, came during an escalating public debate in Israel over its policy towards the PLO.

Israel officially refuses any dialogue with the PLO. It also protested bitterly when the U.S. opened talks with the PLO through the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau, last month.

But there are growing calls to change Israel's policy, including one from Ezer Weizman of the Labour Party.

Weizman called Friday and Saturday in interviews with Israeli radio stations and the Jerusalem Post daily for an immediate dialogue with the PLO to end the nearly 14-month uprising and bring a peace settlement.

"Hand on my heart, I say that if we want to talk seriously, we must speak with the PLO," Weizman said on army

radio Saturday.

In addition, an aide to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was reported by the Maariv daily Friday as holding talks with a jailed Palestinian leader from Jerusalem, Faisal Al Hussein. The contents of their conversations were reportedly passed on to PLO officials abroad.

Arafat meets Kreisky

Arafat flew to the Mediterranean island of Majorca Saturday for an informal meeting with former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Arafat, who Friday met the foreign ministers of Spain, France and Greece in Madrid, arrived in Palma, the capital of the Spanish island, Saturday morning in an Iraqi air force jet, officials said.

The Palestinian leader was scheduled to meet Kreisky in the former chancellor's home

some 15 kilometres from Palma.

The two men last met in Palma in December 1982 when Kreisky was still chancellor.

The three European foreign ministers, who are spearheading a European Economic Community (EEC) peace initiative in the Middle East, told Arafat they would try to speed up an international conference aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arafat urged President Bush Friday to open a new page in Middle East politics. "Arafat accused the United States under Bush's predecessor Ronald Reagan of supporting state terrorism by Israel."

He told a news conference in Madrid Reagan's policies were "a constant threat to my people, a support to Israel's policy of occupation and to state terrorism on the part of Israel."

Sheikh Sabah: Lebanese should help themselves

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The head of an Arab League committee attempting to solve the Lebanon's constitutional crisis said Saturday its success or failure depended on the Lebanese themselves.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the Kuwait news agency (KUNA) before leaving for Tunis, where the committee is due to meet Lebanese leaders Monday, there could be no solution without the cooperation of all Lebanese factions.

"The situation in Lebanon is complicated and it depends first, second and third on the Lebanese themselves and on the extent to which they respond to the efforts of their brothers in the Arab World," he said.

Lebanon has been without a president since September. Two governments, one military and the other civilian, compete for power.

The Arab committee was formed during an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers Jan. 10.

In addition to Kuwait, the committee groups the foreign ministers of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

"We, along with our Arab brothers, have great hope that the Lebanese would come to realise that after 14 years of fighting, the continuation of this situation will not only harm Lebanon but will have adverse repercussions on the entire Arab World and its security and stability," Sheikh Sabah said.

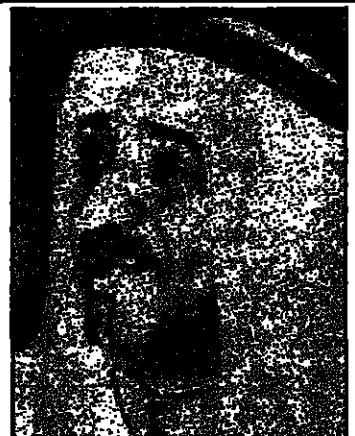
Lebanese acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss arrived in Tunis Saturday to take part in the Arab bid to solve the constitutional crisis.

The Tunisian authorities posted sharpshooters on the roof of the airport terminal and barred reporters from the reception lounge when Hoss and Speaker of Parliament Hussein Al Hussein came off an Air France flight from Paris.

They have also installed bomb detection equipment in the lobby of the Tunis Hilton, where Hoss and Hussein are staying and where the Arab League committee will meet them Monday.

Sheikh Sabah arrived in Tunis earlier Saturday.

Lebanon's military prime minister, Army Commander Michel Aoun, was expected to leave Beirut for Tunis Saturday but Arab League officials said he would not arrive until Sunday. Sheikh Sabah was expected to



Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah

meet in Tunis Monday separately with Aoun and Hoss as well as Hussein.

The main aim of the Arab League committee is to reunite Lebanese government institutions and arrange for presidential elections to avert formal partition of the country.

The United States said Friday this action by the Arab League and shares its concern about the political impasse in Lebanon. We strongly support the Arab League in helping Lebanon move speedily toward the election of a consensus president, "State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

Amal-Hizbollah war rages; bombs hurt 12

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car-bomb exploded Saturday in east Lebanon and rival militias clashed in early morning street battles in south Beirut. Police said the violence killed one person and wounded nine.

A police spokesman said six people, including a Syrian soldier, were wounded when a yellow Renault car blew up at 10:45 a.m. (0845 GMT) in the Bekaa town of Bar Elias.

In a separate attack, a bomb placed in the entrance to a building in Kaskas street in West Beirut exploded at 6:05 p.m. (1605 GMT) wounding six people, a police spokesman said.

The victims were rushed to the Makassed hospital, the spokesman said, adding that no other details were available. Ambulances, their sirens wailing, evacuated the wounded Lebanese from Bar Elias to a hospital in the Bekaa Valley town of Zahleh where they were treated for "minor wounds and discharged," a police spokesman said.

He said the car-bombing, the second in Lebanon this year, also set ablaze eight parked cars and damaged 12 stores.

The first car-bombing occurred in the south Beirut slum of Bir

Abed Jan. 13, killing seven people and wounding 15.

By police count, 116 people were killed and 448 wounded in 20 car-bombings in Lebanon in 1988.

A 90-minute firefight between the Amal militia and Hizbollah (Party of God), in the slums of south Beirut killed one person and wounded three, according to police.

Police said Amal and Hizbollah militiamen traded machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades until 7:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) when the Syrian command dispatched patrols to the contested region to enforce a ceasefire.

The latest casualties hiked the overall toll to 173 killed and 340 wounded since a new round of Amal-Hizbollah fighting broke out in south Beirut Dec. 31 and spread to South Lebanon's Iqlim Al Tufah province.

It was the second outbreak of fighting since a truce was announced Wednesday after talks in Damascus between the foreign ministers of Syria and Iran and Amal and Hizbollah representatives.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Damascus Saturday.

Norway calls for quick peace moves

CAIRO (R) — The international community needs to move quickly to take advantage of peace possibilities created by Palestinian recognition of Israel, Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg said Saturday.

Stoltenberg said he would tell Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, who he is due to meet in Tunis Sunday, that the PLO's recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism last month were important steps.

"I think we all need to move quickly in the sense that now is a time of possibilities in the area," he told Reuters after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Stoltenberg, who discussed peace prospects earlier with His Majesty King Hussein at Aqaba, said he was seeking information and had no new peace plan. He is due to visit Israel and Syria in March.

He said Egypt and Jordan, campaigning like Norway and most European countries for an international Middle East peace conference, felt "that we live in a time of possibilities and that should be utilised."

Asked whether Norway could influence Israel, which refuses to talk to the PLO or agree to an international conference, Stoltenberg said: "I don't know if we can play a role but we have a long tradition of relations with Israel."

He said his Labour Party, then out of power, had done "a very modest man's job" between the PLO and Israeli groups in the early 1980s.

Stoltenberg said Norway was interested in helping Middle East peace efforts even though "this area is very far from my country."

With Abdul Meguid at his side, he said: "The purpose of my visit is getting information and evaluation from the key personalities in the area."

Soviets continue supply airlift to Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — The Soviet Union delivered emergency food and fuel supplies to the besieged Afghan capital Saturday as more countries pondered whether to close their embassies before the Soviet army completes its withdrawal.

Soviet planes flew the emergency supplies to Kabul airport, and convoys composed of at least 112 trucks hauled the food and fuel to grain silos and gasoline stations where long lines of people and cars started forming at dawn.

Some of the fuel trucks headed up the Salang Highway, the only land route open from Kabul to the Soviet Union. The highway passes through territory controlled by guerrillas who have been fighting to topple the Kabul government for the past decade.

Shortages have eased somewhat since the Soviets started airlifting food to Kabul last week. But Afghans, many wearing only lightweight cotton clothing and sandals in the freezing wind, still waited stoically in lines for bread and gasoline.

The latest emergency airlift came as an increasing number of non-communist nations were de-

ciding to close their embassies.

The first country to close its mission was West Germany a week ago. But when the United States said Thursday that it would soon withdraw its diplomats, several other Western nations followed with similar announcements, including Britain, France and Japan.

Italian diplomats said their government was considering similar action, and non-Western diplomats said the Soviet Union's Warsaw Pact allies would probably leave as soon as the Soviet troop withdrawal is completed.

In New Delhi, the Afghan embassy said Austria also had decided to close its mission in Kabul.

Workers erected steel planks around the Iranian embassy in Kabul Saturday, but there was no immediate word whether Tehran planned to close its diplomatic mission.

employees — one-third of what it was before the withdrawal entered its final stage.

Two Soviet military transport planes left Kabul Saturday with Soviet families. Helicopter gunships escorted the planes over the hills ringing Kabul airport. The planes dropped flares, designed to deflect heat-seeking missiles fired by anti-government guerrillas.

Despite the impending closures of Western embassies, the U.S. embassy-operated American Club served California wine and cheeseburgers and showed Vietnamese movies Friday night to a dozen Western diplomats preparing to leave soon.

The American Club, located about two kilometres from the U.S. embassy, was scheduled to close Saturday.

The U.S. State Department has said the last U.S. embassy staffers in Kabul would leave in a few days. Dependents and all but 11 diplomats and security guards already have departed. Last October, the embassy had a staff of 21 U.S. citizens.

A non-Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, called the U.S. decision to close the embassy "all a part of Washington's manoeuvring, trying to show to the world that this government is on the verge of collapse."

The United States has predicted that President Najibullah and his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) will fall from power soon after the Soviet withdrawal is completed.

The government denounced the Western nations' decisions to close their embassies, claiming it could provide the necessary security even after the Soviets leave. It said the closing were a ploy to undermine the Kabul government and "encourage the counter-revolutionary guerrillas to intensify the fighting and frighten the people."

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted an Afghan Foreign Ministry statement as saying the Afghan army was successfully defending areas from which Soviet forces have already left.

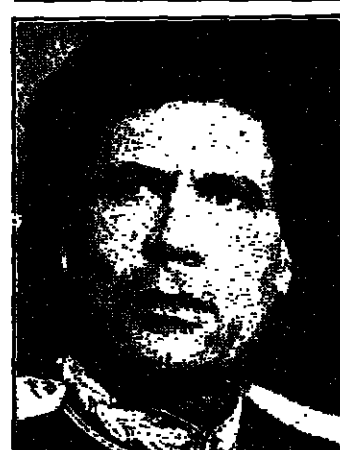
"The decisions of Western states can only be assessed as an attempt to sap the trust of international public opinion in the ability of state authorities to defend the city from extremists," the statement said.



A platoon of Soviet soldiers, kitted out in thick footwear from the Afghan winter, catch their last glimpse of Kabul before a transport plane flies them away from the war and back home.



Soviet aircraft flying in Afghan airspace uses flares to divert heat-seeking missiles fired by Afghan rebels.



Muammar Qadhafi

Qadhafi hopes to meet Bush

NEW YORK (R) — Muammar Qadhafi appeared on U.S. television Friday with his wife and said he hoped to meet President George Bush to improve Libya's relations with the country that bombed his home in 1986.

Asked if he wanted direct talks with the new U.S. president, Qadhafi told ABC Television: "It is not a question of do I want to. I think it is a need, it is a necessity."

"If we want to build correct, sound, healthy relations, we should understand each other directly. I have hoped that this would be achieved sometime during (the) Bush administration."

Bush, as Ronald Reagan's vice president, once called Qadhafi "an egomaniac who would trigger world war III just to make headlines."

Qadhafi praised Bush as being a big improvement over Reagan, who labelled the Libyan leader a "mad dog" and authorised the 1986 bombing of the military compound where Qadhafi lives.

His wife Safiya, who appeared briefly along with four of Qadhafi's seven children, said one of the boys still had nightmares about the bombing. An adopted baby daughter was killed in the raid.

She said the West misunderstands her husband, and joked that if the West's portrayal of him were true, "I wouldn't have stayed with him until now." She said they had been married 19 years.

Qadhafi said of Bush: "I know he's a man who is completely different from Reagan. He's a politician, a factual man, a practical man. Reagan used to treat the presidency as a theatre where he performs his acts."

He said he opposed terrorism directed against civilians and that he had neither ordered nor committed any executions.

U.S.-Israel military ties remaining strong

TEL AVIV (R) — A former U.S. Defence Department official said Friday that close military cooperation between Israel and the United States would continue under President George Bush even if the countries disagreed on peace moves.

Dov Zakheim, former deputy undersecretary of defence, also proposed that American Jews contribute money to Israeli defence industries to supplement the \$1.8 billion in U.S. military aid to the Zionist state each year.

"The relationship between the United States and Israel is a lot deeper and more sophisticated than it ever was," Zakheim said. "There is going to be a great degree of continuity, and I think Israel is very fortunate for that."

The U.S. and Israel have strengthened their military ties after signing a secret strategic cooperation agreement in 1982.

"There is a long-range confidence of American strategic interests with Israel. This ... does not mean that in the short range we can't disagree bitterly," Zakheim told a seminar on U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation at Hebrew University.

But Professor Gerald Steinberg, a political scientist at Bar Ilan University, said at the seminar that Bush may tone down U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation to pursue Middle East peace and improved ties with the Soviet Union.

"If it becomes from the Bush administration's perspective necessary to pressure Israel, I think we are going to see a lot of tension in that strategic relationship," Steinberg said.

Zakheim cited the Soviet naval presence in the Mediterranean and Soviet military aid to Syria as bases for close Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation and listed a number of joint weapons projects that proved the growth of technological ties.

He said the 13-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had increased American public sympathy for the Palestinians but the Bush administration would maintain the U.S. commitment to Israel's "security."

Steinberg questioned whether the Bush administration would share former President Ronald Reagan's "emotional" ties with Israel.

"The strategic relationship was nurtured during the Reagan period, partly because of Reagan's own personal interest in Israel," he said. "The type of emotional involvement of Bush and (defence secretary nominee John) Tower and a number of other people in the new administration is not as clear."

Zakheim said direct U.S. military aid would probably not exceed the current annual level of \$1.8 billion and proposed that American Jews establish a fund for private financial contributions to Israeli defence firms.

"We collect money for trees but not for black boxes (avionics)," Zakheim said, referring to contributions to an Israeli fund that plants forests.

Joint committee meets

(Continued from page 1)

to proceed with firm steps for an expanded Arab cooperation that serves the common prosperity, integration, and good."

The Jordanian side to the talks includes the ministers of transport, labour, energy and mineral resources, information, higher education, interior, agriculture, tourism, industry and trade as well as representatives of the Aqaba Region Authority, Royal Jordanian, in addition to the director of the prime minister's office and the Ministry of Industry and Trade's secretary general.

The Egyptian side to the two-day meeting includes the ministers of agriculture, transport, telecommunications, labour, energy, electricity, information, higher education, interior, economy and trade and tourism and Egypt's ambassador to Jordan.

Before the start of the formal meeting, Sedki and Rifai held a private meeting to review topics on the agenda, which was prepared by a joint committee that ended sessions in the Egyptian capital on Friday.

Upon arrival in Cairo, Rifai said in a statement that Jordan and Egypt maintain joint cooperation as part of the ongoing process to bolster pan-Arab solidarity.

The committee, Rifai noted, "will review achievements by joint Jordanian-Egyptian enterprises over the past six months and will look into means of boosting cooperation between the two countries in trade, industry, transport, telecommunications, higher education, tourism and information."

Jordan and Egypt had started off their cooperation with a humble step, but thanks to continued efforts and contacts and consultations, the two countries are now heading for major achievements, the prime minister said.

Irish envoy seeks to verify hostage rumours

BEIRUT (R) — An Irish envoy was due in Beirut Saturday tracking rumours of the possible release of Western hostages held in suburbs which warring militias have turned into a battle zone.

Patrick McCabe, Baghdad-based Irish ambassador to Lebanon, was expected to fly to Beirut to check rumours Irishman Brian Keenan and British captive John McCarthy would be freed soon.

British ambassador Allan Ramsay told Reuters he could not completely dismiss the chance of a foreigner being set free.

"We have an open mind. We do not entirely dismiss the possibility of a release," he said. "We continue to watch the situation, but we need clearer evidence before we begin to think in terms of a definite release."

He said he would meet McCabe, who was arriving from Cyprus.

But three days after the start of the rumours, whose origin was unclear, there were no concrete signs of an imminent release.

Iranian-backed Hizbollah gunmen exchanged sporadic rocket-propelled grenades and

machinegun fire with their Arab foes Saturday in Hajaj Street, where at one point last year some foreign hostages were reported to be held.

Some of the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon are believed to be incarcerated in the suburbs by Hizbollah on orders from Iran. Tehran and the militants deny any links to kidnapping.

Keenan, 36, who holds both Irish and British nationality, was kidnapped April 11, 1986, as he walked to work at the American University of Beirut.

McCarthy, 31, a journalist with the London-based Worldwide Television News, was seized six days later on the airport road.

No group has claimed responsibility for holding them.

Ireland's ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Syria, Declan Connolly, discussed the hostage issue in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa Wednesday.

Keenan is the only Irishman among the foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon.

Syria has since 1984 helped secure the release of several foreigners held in Lebanon.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. ambassador locked up in his office

BEIRUT (AP) — The local staff of the U.S. embassy in Beirut locked Ambassador John McCarthy in his office for three hours to press for higher salaries, an embassy source disclosed Saturday. The source, who insisted on not being identified further, said the Lebanese staff, including guards armed with rifles, blocked all entrances to the compound in the suburb of Aukar Friday afternoon. They "prevented anyone from entering" the ambassador's office. "The ambassador stayed for about three hours after which the Lebanese employees decided to call off the move for a week to give the ambassador time to follow up their demands with Washington," he said. "He replied 'no comment,' when asked what the contingent of U.S. Marines stationed at the compound did during the protest. The source said the local staff demanded 'increase of salaries, and (were) protesting the lack of benefits for their families.' He would not elaborate."

West German held in Cyprus

LARNACA (AP) — Siegfried Grebe, a West German drug smuggler who had escaped from a Spanish jail, was arrested Friday in this southern Cyprus port, police reported. An official statement said police found an automatic pistol with 68 rounds of ammunition and 20 kilograms of hashish in an apartment rented by Grebe in Larnaca. Grebe, 38, a shipwright, arrived in Larnaca last October and lived on his yacht. He moved to the rented apartment after selling the yacht earlier this month. Police spokesman Aghathocleous Christoforou said Interpol informed Cyprus police that Grebe had escaped from jail in Spain where he was convicted on drug smuggling charges. Christoforou added that Grebe had been under surveillance since his arrival in Cyprus.

Fateh fighters protest wage cut

AIN AL HILWEH (R) — Angry Palestinian fighters blocked entrances to this South Lebanon refugee camp Saturday in protest at a pay cut. The fighters, dressed in green military fatigues, blocked roads leading to 'Ain Al Hilweh with military vehicles and jeeps preventing cars from driving through, witnesses said. The Palestinians said that the mainstream Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had reduced their wages this month. They did not say by how much. Palestinian sources said Fateh fighters, of which there are an estimated 2,500 in 'Ain Al Hilweh, are paid between \$40 and \$80 a month.

Morocco denies peace plan report

RABAT (R) — Morocco strongly denied Saturday a report that King Hassan was about to announce a Middle East peace plan and threatened legal action against radio and television stations that broadcast it. "The government of the Kingdom of Morocco categorically denies such allegations which are devoid of any basis," a statement issued by the official MAP news agency said. Local media, quoting a report in the Jerusalem Post, said the king would shortly call on Arab states to recognise Israel in return for Palestinian self-determination. One Moroccan radio station, the Tangier-based Radio Medi 1, is known to have broadcast the report. "With regard to any audiovisual station which disseminates such information, the government... has decided to take legal and administrative action to safeguard the credibility of the Kingdom of Morocco," the statement said.

Locusts threaten UAE agriculture

ABU DHABI (AP) — Swarms of locusts, coming from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have been sighted in the United Arab Emirates heading east towards Abu Dhabi's agricultural areas, officials at the Ministry of Agriculture said Saturday. They said the locust invasion covered 80 square kilometres, despite pesticides the ministry had sprayed as a precaution after several neighbouring Gulf countries reported sighting similar swarms. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were concerned because the locusts at the stage are mature, ready to lay eggs and multiply rapidly. The locusts spread eastward from Africa in October, and officials expect them to stay until May when temperatures in the Gulf begin to rise.

FREE GROCERY CONTEST

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JANUARY 31, 1989

DRAWING DATE
FEBRUARY 2, 1989

AT



SAFeway INTERNATIONAL

OAU chief arrives in Algiers on state visit

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Moussa Traore, president of Mali and chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), arrived in Algiers Saturday for a two-day state visit, the APS news agency reported.

The OAU is co-sponsoring a United Nations peace plan for the Western Sahara where Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas have fought Moroccan troops for independence for 13 years.

Traore's visit comes at a time of intense diplomatic activity aimed at settling the dispute. Morocco walked out of the OAU when it admitted Polisario in 1984.

Polisario declared a truce Friday in a move that it said was aimed at hastening progress towards an accord and a self-determination referendum.

The announcement, made by the "information ministry" of the "Saharan Arab democratic republic" the Polisario's diplomatic arm, is the group's contribution to improving the conditions for the summit of Maghreb leaders next month in Marrakech.

The statement also comes before further expected meetings between Morocco's King Hassan II and Polisario leaders.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	20:30	Perfect Strangers
15:30	15:40	15:45
15:45	15:50	15:55
15:55	16:00	16:05
16:05	16:10	16:15
16:15	16:20	16:25
16:25	16:30	16:35
16:35	16:40	16:45
16:45	16:50	16:55
16:55	17:00	17:05
17:05	17:10	17:15
17:15	17:20	17:25
17:25	17:30	17:35
17:35	17:40	17:45
17:45	17:50	17:55
17:55	18:00	18:05
18:05	18:10	18:15
18:15	18:20	18:25
18:25	18:30	18:35
18:35	18:40	18:45
18:45	18:50	18:55
18:55	19:00	19:05
19:05	19:10	19:15
19:15	19:20	19:25
19:25	19:30	19:35
19:35	19:40	19:45
19:45	19:50	19:55
19:55	20:00	20:05

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:27 (Sunrise) Duha
11:49 Dhuhur
14:45 Asr
17:10 Maghrib
18:29 Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637441.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with slight increase in temperature. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.
Min./max. temp.
Amman 4/11

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	898001
Dr. Munir Qasbi	812148
Dr. Adel Amman	777665
Dr. Awni Al Sawadeh	896301
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Nairoubi pharmacy	623072
Al Selam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Marwan Habbab (—)
Dr. Sharara pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Latif Ouraini (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Fire Brigade	192, 621111, 637777
Police	622090/93
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	643402
Traffic Police	656309/1
Public Security Department	656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone

Repair	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815015
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	643281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red)	300 / 450
Apple (yellow)	450 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukannar)	300 / 250
Beans	600 / 500
Broad beans	900 / 800
Cabbage	165 / 100
Carrots	230 / 180
Cauliflower	230 / 180
Cucumbers	460 / 400
Dates	600 / 500
Eggplant	160 / 120
Garlic	280 / 200
Grapefruit	170 / 120
Lemon	220 / 160
Lettuce (per one)	120 / 80
Marrow (large)	350 / 300
Marrow (small)	350 / 300
Orange (French)	350 / 300
Orange (Shamouni)	400 / 350
Orange (local)	260 / 200
Onion (green)	220 / 160
Onion (dry)	250 / 180
Pepper (hot)	550 / 450
Pepper (sweet)	460 / 400
Potato	260 / 200
Spinach	150 / 100
Mandarin	280 / 220
Tomatoes	210 / 150

Abu Taleb opens course for senior army officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb Saturday opened the 30th training course for senior army officers at the Royal Command and Staff Academy and delivered a speech outlining the importance of the high-level training course and welcoming the participation of army officers from Arab states.

The academy gives due attention to the development of military personnel and training high

calibrated officers to achieve the best results, Abu Taleb said. He reviewed Jordan's endeavours to fend off external aggression on the Arab nation and paid tribute to the Hashemite leadership and directives that are boosting Jordan's security and stability.

Among those attending the opening ceremony was Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafzah, senior army officers and the academy's commander.

Frost-hit farm exports to Europe at near standstill

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's farm exports to Europe are at a near standstill after frost caused losses of JD 800,000, officials said Saturday.

Ghazi Abu Hassan, director-general of the state-owned Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO), told Reuters vegetable exports to nine European countries were running at only two tonnes a day, instead of the planned 44.

He said volume, reduced by frost which hit the Jordan Valley early this month, might rise next month if the weather improved and local demand could be satisfied.

"Now we are sending very small quantities just to keep our name in the market, but we hope

to be able to send 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes over the next four months," he said.

Jordan had agreed to sell 7,900 tonnes of marrow, sweet and green peppers, eggplant and haricot beans to Italy, France, West Germany, Britain, The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and Austria between November and May for up to \$1,500 a tonne. About 150 farmers were involved.

AMPCO is responsible for helping Jordanian farmers find new markets for their exports, most of which go to the Gulf.

His Majesty King Hussein has ordered the Agriculture Ministry to compensate farmers for losses caused by bad weather.



Prince Abdullah presents awards

HIS Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Saturday distributed cups and awards to the winners of the offshore power-boat race held in the port city of Aqaba Friday. Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Abdullah presented the cup to his brother Prince Faisal who came first in the race, and to Masha'al Jarallah from Kuwait and Nasser Saad from the United Arab Emirates. The race was organised by the

Royal Jordanian Water Skiing and Boating Federation, the Royal Jordanian Coast Guard, the Royal Yacht and the Aquamarina Hotel in cooperation with the Jordan Ports Corporation and in coordination with Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The 280 kilometres race was attended by King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor and a number of officials (Petra photo).

AACO to set up pan-Arab data bank to serve Arab airlines

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Air Carriers' Organisation (AACO) has decided to set up a pan-Arab data bank to serve as a source of information for all Arab airlines, according to Royal Jordanian (RJ) Vice President for Public Relations Munib Touqan.

The AACO's information committee decided on the data bank at its three-day meeting which was held in Manama, Bahrain, and attended by delegates from the AACO's 17-member nations. Touqan said upon returning to Amman from the meeting.

He said that the committee set up a team to conduct a feasibility study and later to follow up the implementation of the project.

"Cooperation among Arab airlines was discussed and the meeting decided on a general pattern

for providing training to personnel in the information field," Touqan noted.

He said that the information committee stressed the importance for Arab airlines to participate in various world air shows and other events, and said that the AACO decided to take part in the La Bourget International Air Show to be held in Paris in June 1989.

The AACO also decided to take part in an art exhibition, which is to be held in Washington early next year, with the purpose of highlighting Arab culture and heritage, displaying samples of Arab artists' works, Touqan noted.

At the meeting, Touqan was re-elected for another two-year term as chairman of the AACO's



Munib Touqan

information committee — a post he had held since the committee's establishment four years ago.

Tunis talks call for campaign to support uprising — Qatanani

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the major tasks that lies ahead of the Arab World in its drive to support the 13-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, is a comprehensive media campaign on all levels, to support the anti-occupation revolt through further exposing Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, a recent Arab meeting in Tunis has concluded.

The biennial meeting in Tunis of Arab countries and organisations hosting Palestinian refugees has urged better Arab media coverage of the uprising and called for an intensified drive to foil Israel's plans to extend its control to Islamic and Christian holy places in occupied Jerusalem.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs who headed Jordan's delegation to the meeting held in the third week of December, said the two recommendations, to be tabled before the next meeting of the Arab League Council, were the most important outcome of the Tunis meeting.

"The recommendation emphasised the need to put together programmes in the various Arab countries to support the uprising in the occupied territories," Qatanani said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "Educational programmes, television shows and radio broadcasts that will keep up with the developments and support the people of the intifada" were the main focus of the recommendation, Qatanani said.

Referring to the recently-floated Israeli plan to extend the occupation authorities' control of Islamic and Christian holy places

in occupied Jerusalem, Qatanani noted that it was the first time in the history of Palestine that an occupying power had sought to do so.

If Israel goes ahead and implements the plan, Qatanani said, holy places such as the sacred Al Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre will be subjected to Israeli harassment. "This plan will bring the holy places under the direct control of the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem," he said.

The Tunis meeting condemned the plan and called for a study on its legality, he said, and to make the whole world aware of Israel's intentions. "It is something new," he said, noting that at no time under foreign occupation of Palestine were the holy places put under the direct control of the occupying power, including the Ottoman rulers and the British mandate authorities prior to the partition of Palestine.

Earlier this month, the chairman of the Jerusalem-based Waqaf and Islamic Affairs Council, Sheikh Saaduddin Al Alami, called on His Majesty King Hussein to use all his powers to block the Israeli plan, which was recently forwarded to the Israeli government by its legal adviser.

The plan is believed to have the blessing of almost all parties represented in Israel's "national unity" government formed in December. Another subject tackled by the Tunis meeting, which was attended by representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and related Arab League organisations, was Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

It noted that the total number of settlements stood at 171 in the West Bank and 20 in the Gaza Strip, Qatanani said. The total number of officially recorded settlers in the West Bank was about 70,000. But other reports indicate

that the number is close to 90,000, not including the huge number of settlers around what Israel describes as "Greater Jerusalem."

Jordan presented a paper at the conference to "alert the international community for the present settlement situation and make them aware of Israel's plans to build 53 settlements in the next four years. The Israeli settlement policy is continuing and is very clear," Qatanani said.

The activities and programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) were also discussed by the Tunis meeting. The issue has assumed a larger-than-usual profile in Arab deliberations in light of the negative impact that Israeli measures against the uprising have left on the health and education, as well as social services situation of Palestinian refugees living in the occupied territories.

The meeting agreed that UNRWA's additional burdens required additional funds, therefore they recommended that regular contributors increase their donations to tackle this emergency.

An appeal was also made to countries which are not regular donors to UNRWA to make contributions. A meeting of the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees found in 1988 that it would amount to almost double the UNRWA budget to meet the needs of the refugee population.

"Obviously, we could not ask the donors to double their contribution," said Qatanani. "UNRWA does not have a budget to fulfill its needs and so we always say if they do not get additional amounts, an unacceptable strain will be placed on the host countries. We have calculated last year's needs of the Palestinians, they are almost double that of UNRWA's \$200 million budget."

However, "any additional funds will be much welcomed by UNRWA, especially these days," he said.

Qatanani said the Tunis meeting discussed the political and administrative implications of the decisions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers last November, but did not take up the subject of a Palestinian passport, which, according to earlier reports, was expected to be raised at the meeting by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Ministry worked out plans to boost exports by 30 per cent — Tabbaa

By Tareq Khouri
Petra

CAIRO — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has worked out plans for increasing by at least 30 per cent the total amounts of Jordan's exports of manufactured products which are of very good quality and of a highly competitive standard, Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa said in a statement in Cairo Saturday.

The minister said the past year witnessed a noticeable increase in the number of industries set up at the Sahab Industrial City — exceeding the total number of those set up at Sahab since the city's establishment in 1982, the minister noted.

Altogether, 57 new industries mushroomed in the Sahab Industrial City, south of Amman, against six in 1982, according to an earlier statement by the Jordan Industrial Estate Corporation (JIEC). The statement said that all premises allocated for industries, with the exception of one single building, have been

taken by new industries registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Jordan, Tabbaa said, "believes in free economic enterprise and individual initiatives. But sometimes the government has to interfere in order to support private businesses."

He said that the government is now carrying out a privatisation process in a number of public organisations, turning them into public and later privately owned share-holding companies to be operated on purely commercial basis.

The government's recent economic measures stimulated the national economy and proved it to be resilient and capable of adapting to various developments and changes, the minister noted.

Since the start of 1989 the Jordanian economy has been moving in a course conforming to His Majesty King Hussein's directives which called for Jordan to become self-reliant and to carry out income-generating projects," the minister added.

He said that the limited floating of the Jordanian dinar has been instrumental in increasing Jordan's national exports to Arab and foreign countries. "A good

number of industrial businesses in Jordan have suddenly discovered that they are effectively competing with other foreign producers on the international markets."

He said that the floating was an inevitable step "that placed the dinar face to face with a challenge." But, he added, the dinar began to stabilise over the past two months despite earlier predictions that the national economy cannot cope with such a situation.

"The past year was a year of challenges to the Jordanian economy. But thanks to the government's economic, financial and monetary measures, the national economy is being bolstered and the private sector is given a greater role in the field of development," Tabbaa noted.

The government introduced measures to facilitate industrial business and has reduced customs duty on raw materials in order to boost local industries, he said.

Tabbaa noted that the decision to reduce imports of luxury products and rationalise spending for one-year were essential and saved a large amount of hard currency. The minister predicted that the floating of the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar will motivate an increase in Jordanian expatriates' transfers and more investments in the Kingdom.

He said that failure on the part of some Arab countries to honour their financial commitments to Jordan in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions prompted the government to take steps to enable Jordan to achieve self-dependence and build up the country's economy.

Coca Cola ban still in place

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab boycott Office in Jordan refuted recent rumours that Coca Cola would soon be found on the shelves of supermarkets throughout the Kingdom.

"Coca Cola has been forbidden in all Arab countries and the possibility of removing its boycott was not even discussed in the eight-day Arab boycott meeting held in Damascus earlier this year," said an official from the office, who preferred not to be identified.

For the past 30 years the Arab boycott offices throughout the Arab World have worked to ensure that any company, which has a franchise or branch or any kind of connection with Israel, is kept out of the Arab markets.

Although Coca Cola has been boycotted due to the company's affiliation with Israel, the company has been making inroads into many Gulf states.

The boycotted companies and products are named by the Arab League, but it is up to the individual country's discretion whether to abide by the boycott or not. The official at the Arab Boycott Office in Jordan refused to disclose the names of some companies on the boycott list, only say, "there are hundreds of companies."

RSS workshop discusses Zarqa Basin development

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A workshop to discuss the Zarqa River Basin development project opened at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Saturday.

Participants in the two-week workshop will consider and analyse different aspects of the project problems that are being encountered and finding proper solutions for them, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, which is sponsoring the workshop in cooperation with the RSS and the West German Development Agency.

Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi, who opened the meeting, said the recommendations will be taken into account by planners working out executive steps in the coming stage that will see the completion of the project by

1993.

The JD 32 million project aims to develop safe land use, soil conservation and improved farming techniques on a farm-by-farm basis. Farmers will sign contracts to follow recommended procedures that have previously been adopted only in Australia. The project managers expect that about two thirds of the 5,700 farmers in the area will sign up.

The project, which is being implemented with the help of Australia, is being funded by a number of Arab and foreign funds and financial institutions. Ministry of Agriculture experts said that the project was expected to help halt the present rate of erosion in the area, reduce silting in the King Talal Dam and improve farm incomes on a sustainable basis.

EIN JARNA ELECTIONS: Some 2,938 people will go to the polls Sunday to elect a new municipal council for Ein Jarra. There will be six polling posts at two local schools. (Petra)

Jordan to take part in Islamic meeting on trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in board and general assembly meetings of the Islamic Chambers of Industry and Trade which is due to open in Abu Dhabi in February.

The four-day meetings will discuss means of increasing the volume of trade among Islamic nations and a Jordanian proposal on promoting the role of pan-Islamic federations in promoting the Islamic economic structure, and in the formation of economic blocs within the Islamic World.

for the formation of specialised federations designed to stimulate fruitful cooperation among Islamic countries in insurance, transport, phosphate, potash and fertiliser industries.

Ahmad Ghneim from the Amman Chamber of Commerce will represent Jordan at the coming meetings.

The Jeddah Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry was formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to help strengthen the economies of Islamic countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammed at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by artist Misa Ender at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- ★ A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Twelve Angry Men" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Bridgestone to hold course for agents, distributors in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation leaves Amman Sunday to take part in a special training course and to examine Bridgestone Tyres modern technology in Bangkok-Thailand.

The delegation has been invited to attend the course by the Jamil Bustani and Sons Company (Bridgestone) in the coming week to orient themselves on the Bridgestone Tyres high quality

products. Taking part in the course, the first of its kind for Jordanians, are: Yanal Bustani, general manager of the Bridgestone company in Jordan, Rashid Haddad, Nasr Al Bustani and Hashem Shukri from the company's sales department.

Also invited to take part in the course is a number of Bridgestone sales agents in the Kingdom.

Kayed wants Aqaba Port to be made an exclusive free zone

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Free Zone Corporation (FZC) is seeking to establish the port city of Aqaba as an exclusive free zone with a view to stimulating export-import and trade and transit operations in the Kingdom, FZC Director General Yassin Al Kayed said in a statement published Saturday.

Aqaba, which is on the sea and which serves as a prospective regional trading centre, is the most qualified area to become a free zone centre, serving the Arab region, not only for companies and businesses but also for private citizens, Kayed said in the statement published in Al Dustour daily.

He said: "We ask that the whole of Aqaba be turned into a free zone area because the city now suffers from an economic recession, and in order to benefit from the land-sea route that links Aqaba with Nuweibeh in Sinai."

Egyptians who use the route to travel to Egypt or to other Arab countries would be able to purchase their needs, especially electrical appliances, from the free zone, while Jordanians who normally travel abroad and bring in foreign products, can do that at Aqaba which offers the same goods once the whole city were considered a free zone, Kayed said.

But, he said, a major obstacle in marketing the products was a contradiction between the FZC regulations and the customs laws, with the former stating that free zone products can be sold here with no customs fees, and the latter insisting that customs duty be paid.

"The problem was recently solved — raising hopes for the investors and the merchants alike," Kayed said.



Yassin Al Kayed

was established in Zarqa. "Unfortunately this took place at the peak of the economic recession that affected the whole Arab region, which caused businessmen to shun investment in the Zarqa Free Zone area."

The Zarqa Free Zone now houses nine industries and the profits and other returns are still very limited. The free zones were originally set up to help stimulate transit and trade operations and attract businesses and industrial schemes which can produce manufactured goods to be marketed here and abroad, Kayed said.

But, he said, a major obstacle in marketing the products was a contradiction between the FZC regulations and the customs laws, with the former stating that free zone products can be sold here with no customs fees, and the latter insisting that customs duty be paid.

"The problem was recently solved — raising hopes for the investors and the merchants alike," Kayed said.

"Hardly had this problem been solved, than the FZC found itself confronted with another serious issue, namely the laws and regulations of the council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU)," Kayed pointed out.

He said these laws state that free zone products do not enjoy the privileges provided by trade agreements among Arab countries especially those of the Arab Common Market; which means that they will be subject to customs duty upon entering another Arab country.

"The struggle to overcome this issue," Kayed noted, "is continuing, especially since Syria, Egypt, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates have all established free zones and are putting forward to the CAEU demands similar to those submitted by Jordan."

Kayed said that the free zone area straddling the border region between Syria and Jordan is somewhat thriving and benefiting the two countries.

A total of 1500 dunums of land have been utilised and the infrastructure has been laid for different industrial and commercial projects in that area, and China has now approached both sides with a bid to exploit 4,500 dunums within the zone to grow soya beans and set up food and fodder processing plant, Kayed explained.

He said the government, in a bid to encourage investments in the free zones, has reduced the rate of rent and fees for using the land or storing goods in warehouses. "This, and other measures that could be taken in the future, are bound to help encourage investors to embark on projects in the free zones."



According to given data, in certain developed countries one child in a thousand under the age of four is seriously injured by its parents, 10% of these children die of their injuries.

Child abuse, a tradition or an abnormality?

Dr. Oumeish Youssef Oumeish is a practising dermatologist and venereologist in Amman.

When something is brought tumbling down in reality, it is praised to the heavens in social mythology. This is the mechanism of overcompensation. Never in the history of mankind has the child been so exalted with the pen and the spoken word as it is today — and never has it been so ill-treated. Children are by far the most numerous, the least eloquent and the most misjudged victims of human violence. Statistics are shamefully inadequate and there is therefore little point in dwelling on them.

People have sacrificed children to appease the gods, to maintain the demographic balance or simply to strengthen the supremacy of the master of the house or the leader of the tribe.

The ancient Greeks and Romans openly allowed children to be beaten, maimed, killed or abandoned. A number of 'traditional' forms of child abuse are still with us today: traffic in children, commercial exploitation in the form of child labour and child prostitution, the most gruesome mutilations in order to make 'successful' beggars or sideshow attractions of the children, mutilation of the genitals of young girls in accordance with tribal rites...

Every time one looks for the factors which encourage this

aggressiveness of adults towards children, the social pattern is seen to weigh heavily. Smith finds the following significant characteristics:

- young parents;
- from the lower and therefore less well-endowed social class (but from another study, by Elmer, it may be concluded that the fact of belonging to the social underclass is in itself a large risk factor for the evolution of the child as a parental violence);
- broken home;
- neurotic mother with weak intellectual development and a psychotic father with normal intellectual development;
- and social isolation, unemployment, geographical instability, large family, poor housing and promiscuity (in the original meaning of the word, i.e. many people massed together in a small area).

In a man-woman relationship the man is usually the most brutal partner. But this is not the case in the parent-child relationship. The most brutal parent is the woman, the mother.

As a physician you can meet child abusing parents part-way. By raising the problem yourself, for example in consequence of suspect injuries to their child. That, however, is a delicate matter because child abuse can be a painful diagnosis. It is therefore prudent not to inform the parents of what you are thinking right from the start.

The physical pathology which is presented to child abuse consists primarily of skin lesions (scratches, contusions, wounds, torn out hair), mouth injuries (retinal hemorrhage), fractures, and injuries to the central nervous system (subdural hematomas, whiplash-shaken infant syn-

drome). If it is true that violence in the home whether of the physical or mental variety, which centres mainly on women and children but whose victims also include men, senior citizens and parents (especially parents of adolescents) is often based on social custom, then maybe a start should be made by wiping that custom off the map.

What is postulated as an indispensable maxim by 'Parents Anonymous' has since become law in Sweden. In March 1979 the Swedish Parliament passed a law prohibiting every form of bodily chastisement, i.e. all corporal punishment, and all humiliating treatment of children. The guiding principle was that the cultivation of violence should not be permitted as a means to achieve an end, even if that end is supposedly educational...

Sounds of our souls

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

THE HAGUE — Composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, whose music has included sounds ranging from car engines to feet shuffling, says he suffers acutely from the noises of daily life.

The 60-year-old West German composer, best known for experimenting with electronic music, says he loves silence. "Acoustic pollution is worse than any other kind of poisonous pollution because people don't know that sound waves immediately change their souls — even sound waves they don't notice," he said in an interview with Reuters.

For Stockhausen, there is no contradiction between his belief that 20th century noise harms the human soul and his use of radio or car engine sounds in some of his compositions.

"Any sound can become music if it is related to other sounds. Music is mainly a relationship between sounds rather than an exhibition of sound, but first we need silence in which to put an ensemble of sounds," he said.

The Cologne-based composer said he fights a constant battle with waiters in restaurants to turn off piped music. Electrical appliances and aircraft are a constant source of aggravation.

"I think it should be forbidden to make sounds in public places," he said. "Every sound is precious and can become beautiful if I put it at the right place, at the right moment, but generally all sound that happens in daily life is accidental and that's bad."

During a two-week festival of his music this month in the Netherlands, Stockhausen has had a chance to display the enormous variety of ways he has found to place sound in an array of compositions.

Some works, such as his 1966 Telemusik, were played exclusively on speakers while the audience listened in the dark.

In other pieces, instrumentalists play along with electronic music, or dance on stage while playing.

Stockhausen was one of the first musicians to experiment with electronic music in the 1950s and many have been bewildered by his attraction to astrology and the concept of reincarnation.

But critics often admire his willingness to risk the new.

In one composition, Klavierstück IX, the pianist is instructed to begin by playing one note 134 times, decreasing the loudness each time the note is struck.

In another work, Aries, he electronically condenses a 20-minute Beethoven work to two minutes.

Dreams

His compositions often come to him in dreams. When put to paper, some do not have a determined beginning or end. Musicians are told to choose a point in the score to start and are given a multiple choice of bars to play as the piece proceeds.

His compositions are often written as complicated diagrams and instructions to the players, rather than as a conventional score.

They may be told to turn on a radio and improvise a melody to the sounds they hear.

The instructions virtually assure that no two performances of the piece will ever sound alike.

Perhaps his most ambitious work to date is the seven-part cycle light (light) which he began in 1977 and expects to finish by the year 2005. The work is based on the seven days of the week and related to the cycle of creation in the Bible.

Mondays and Tuesdays

Stockhausen has already completed Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, which were premiered in La Scala in Milan, and is now busy working on Tuesday.

"I started by asking what is the difference between a Monday and a Tuesday," he said.

"I found out that every day has its colour, every day has its element, every day is related naturally to the sun or the moon or a planet and I found out that this is so old and exists in previous cultures on this planet," he said.

Saturday focused on death, Monday on fertility, water and the moon. Thursday, he said, classically represents the day of learning and travelling and Tuesday with its Roman connections to the god Mars, will focus on war themes.

He works with an entourage of dedicated musicians — including three of his six children and his companion of 15 years, clarinetist Suzanne Stephens — because, he says, not everything about his music is in the score.



nomads in China

The Mongolian Gobi, where hunters stalk game

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia — American farmer Norbert Bremer travelled 16,000 kilometres and spent \$10,000 for a shot at a ram on the frozen, wind-lashed wasteland of the Gobi desert.

"I had a wonderful time," said Bremer, showing off the mighty curved horns of a Gobi ram, his trophy from one of the world's more exotic safaris.

He also tracked down a tall-horned Siberian ibex as part of the tour, and for an extra \$750, shot a blacktailed gazelle.

Bremer, 52, was the last hunter of 1988 to take the Gobi tour. He said temperatures in the Mongolian desert plunged to minus 18 celsius, and the wind knifed through the treeless scrub at 50 kilometres per hour.

"It was a blustery hunt," he said.

G. Batsukh, deputy general director of the Mongolian state travel agency Zhuulchin, said Bremer was one of about 350 Westerners to sign up for a Mongolian safari in 1988. Sixty per cent were Americans, with the rest from Europe.

Batsukh said some 600 people apply, but the government has decided against expanding the tours to prevent depletion of game stocks.

"We have very strict control on the population of sheep and other game," he said, adding that hunters turn for horn trophies do not shoot the young or females.

Most Americans are interested in big-horned mountain sheep, Batsukh said, but the tourist agency also offers safaris to the woodlands of central and north-east Mongolia, where elk, moose, deer and brown bear abound.

About 20 to 25 adventurers every year spend a basic sum of \$14,000 to hunt the world's largest sheep, found in the Altai mountains of far western Mongolia. That 12-day tour includes hunting by horseback at altitudes of up to 4,000 metres.

Batsukh said that several years ago, the government sold licences to hunt the rare and beautiful snow leopard found in the Altai range, claiming its population had increased and that it was preying on cattle, yaks and people. But he said only one or two of the white-and-black leopards were killed, and shooting licences are no longer issued.

Batsukh said the tours, which provide Mongolia with a valuable source of foreign currency, are comparable or cheaper in price than those of other remote hunting grounds. Hunting sheep in the Soviet Union, China or Nepal can easily cost more than \$20,000, he said.

Bremer agreed. "For hunters, this was a bargain," he said, adding he'd like to come back for the Altai hunt.

Bremer, who farms 356 hectares in Iowa, said he read of the Gobi trip in hunting magazines. He said that for about \$6,500, the Mongolian tourist agency, Zhuulchin, provided in-country trans-

portation, guides and attendants, and a licence to shoot one Gobi sheep and one ibex.

He had to pay his air fare to Peking and buy his own ticket for the 30-hour overnight train ride from Peking to the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator.

Bremer also paid a fixed fee of \$200 for every 2.5 centimetres of the ram's horn in excess of 110 centimetres. His kill, which he guessed was about 12 years old and "must have been the dominant male in the herd," had horns of 130 centimetres.

He said the trip to the hunting camp was by plane to a dirt landing strip in the Gobi and then by jeep for four hours. He said they passed nomadic herders, some armed with rifles and riding camels, others on horseback as they followed their flocks of horses and sheep through the parched bush.

He stayed in a "ger," the round tentlike home of Mongolian herders, and was served by an interpreter, a driver, a cook, a camp manager and a young woman to tend the stoves and skin the animals.

"It was very easy as far as hunting goes," Bremer said, adding that the guides, steering through the dirt paths that crisscross the hilly terrain, had an uncanny ability to find game.

"It was amazing how they knew where they're going," he said. Two days after making camp he bagged his ibex. The next day, he shot the ram and gazelle.

Children and guns

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A young drifter armed with an AK-47 semiautomatic rifle sprays 100 rounds of ammunition on a crowded California schoolyard, killing five children and wounding 30 other people.

New York city educators start using metal detectors at some high schools after several students — including a 5-year-old — are caught with loaded pistols.

The incidents, nearly 5,000 kilometres apart, underscore the easy availability of weapons in the United States and highlight a long-running feud between advocates of restrictive gun-control laws and their opponents, who cite what they see as a constitutional right to bear arms.

Patrick Purdy, the 24-year-old who killed himself after the deadly California school assault last week, walked into an Oregon gun shop five months ago and bought an AK-47. All he had to do was fill out a form, show he was over 21 and pay for it. Such weapons cost less than one week's pay for many Americans.

There are questions on the form about whether the buyer has a criminal record or a history of mental problems, but Purdy simply lied.

Laws regulating the sale of automatic and semiautomatic weapons differ among the 50 states. A federal license, which includes an extensive background check, is required to buy automatic rifles and machine guns. Those weapons fire continuously as long as the trigger is depressed or until they run out of ammunition.

Semiautomatic weapons, however, are governed by a variety of different state laws. Only two states currently require a waiting period to buy a semiautomatic weapon, which requires a separate pull of the trigger for each shot. The waiting period gives authorities time to check for criminal records.

Police have long complained that the guns can be easily converted to fully automatic weapons.

Waiting periods

A few more states have waiting periods to buy handguns, and legislation is expected to be proposed again in Congress this year — it's been defeated before — that would impose waiting periods on both types of firearms.

California deputy Attorney General Alan Ashby said that even in legal semiautomatic con-

dition, an AK-47 can fire at a rate of 400 rounds per minute.

Taylor Bowden, legislative director for Sen. Steven Symms, a staunch opponent of gun-control laws, said the issue is simply a constitutional matter. The 2nd amendment to the constitution says: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be abridged."

"In general, Senator Symms looks on most of anti-gun legislation introduced in Congress as infringing upon if not completely abrogating that right," Bowden said.

"Certainly, our founding fathers looked at it for their own protection. That right was something essential to the issue of individual protection," he said.

NRA

It's an argument that plays well in Symms' home state, Idaho, and other predominantly rural areas where the National Rifle Association (NRA) is strong and encroachment of federal regulation often is considered a worse medicine than any ill.

The NRA is a powerful national lobbying force with strong links to the hunting industry. It claims to have just over 2.8 million members and that the number has been going up in recent years.

But U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum, a Democrat leading the fight for tighter gun-control legislation, said distinctions must be made among the various weapons now available.

"You don't use rapid-fire guns to shoot deer," he said. "You think anyone would use an AK-47 or an Uzi in self-defence? I don't think I've heard of anyone. Maybe the drug dealers."

Sales of the Soviet-designed AK-47s have become intensely controversial in California because of their use by the increasingly violent street gangs in Los Angeles and other communities.

"These kinds of weapons are available to anyone who wants to buy them," said California Attorney General John Van De Kamp.

"All one needs is a warm smile and cold cash. This is madness and this has to stop. We have to ban these weapons from going in the streets of our city and state."

In the Los Angeles area, models of the AK-47 that have been manufactured in China sell from \$299 to \$329 at sporting goods stores, and are often advertised on sale. They also can be bought via mail-order catalogues, along

with shotguns and high-powered rifles.

Sales rise

AK-47 sales reportedly went up in California in the wake of the school shooting incident amid concerns that new restrictions might be placed on their purchase.

But in New York, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, who asked not to be identified, said the AK-47 was available at his store but that there has been little demand.

"We really don't sell many of them, mostly to collectors," he said. "That paramilitary stuff has been dropping a lot."

Metzenbaum says at least 500,000 semiautomatic weapons already are in private ownership in the United States. The proliferation, along with new forms of ammunition that can pierce bulletproof vests, has led many police organisations to switch positions and start backing gun-control proposals.

"They're now solid supporters; they have their lives at stake," Metzenbaum said.

Calls for stricter legislation always increase after mass murders like the California schoolyard attack and the 1984 assault on a McDonald's fast-food restaurant by a lone gunman armed with a small arsenal of weapons — including an Uzi — and more than 400 rounds of ammunition.

The calls usually start to fade with the memory of the attack, but Metzenbaum is convinced that this time will be different.

Despite the National Rifle Association's lobbying efforts, he has won some small victories recently, outlawing the so-called "cop-killer" bullets and some forms of new plastic guns designed to evade X-ray detection, and feels the momentum is changing.

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S. Arabia shakes barley markets

NICOSIA (R) — A decision by Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest barley importer, to stop subsidising private barley traders has sown uncertainty in an already unsettled world market, economists in the kingdom said.

The Saudi government early this month eliminated a 100 riyal (\$26.6) a tonne subsidy for Saudi importers, then announced it would sell inexpensive barley from its own warehouses to local consumers.

Confusion over how the move would affect barley demand was compounded by speculation that new U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter might scale U.S. export subsidies.

"U.S. policy in flux, GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations going on and the Saudis taking the trade away from the private sector — the market is very confused," said one economist in the kingdom.

On Jan. 2, the Saudi commerce

ministry hit local traders with the surprise announcement that any barley which had not yet cleared customs would not be eligible for the import subsidy.

The same day the government announced it would begin selling barley at 20 riyals (\$5.33) per 50-kilogramme bag from its warehouse in Jeddah.

The announcement sparked off two days of frantic lobbying by local traders, many of whom had barley deals already in the pipeline and ships full of the grain heading to Saudi ports, industry sources said.

On Jan. 4, however, the ministry sent a telex to traders saying the original decision was final.

Industry sources said traders then scrambled to unload the grain in other Middle East markets where they could sell it at world market prices.

But they discovered that because much of the barley had been purchased under a U.S.

export programme to the kingdom, they could not divert it, and were forced to sell at a huge loss.

Economists said the Saudi move, prompted by months of subsidy problems, was unusual for a government which has traditionally been wary of intervening directly in private trade.

Until September 1987, the barley subsidy had been even higher, at 300 riyals (\$80) per tonne, but was cut when a record 8.2 million tonnes were imported in one year.

With the subsidy reduced, the local price for barley nearly doubled to around 21 to 25 riyals (\$5.60 to \$6.70) per 50-kilogramme bag, sparking off protests by livestock growers.

Economists said it was uncertain how the Saudi decision to take the trade over from the private sector would affect overall demand.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the kingdom accounts for as much as

50 per cent of the world's barley import market.

Despite the subsidy cut, the kingdom's commitment to supplying cheap barley to local consumers guarantees it will be in the market for some time, economists said.

But they predicted that a policy of encouraging local barley production could gradually cut out imports.

For years the country has been in the awkward position of giving massive subsidies simultaneously to wheat growers and barley importers, even though inputs for growing the two grains on the kingdom's farms were nearly identical.

Because of the subsidy, the kingdom has been buying wheat from local farmers at several times the world price, then taking the surplus over local consumption and selling overseas at a big loss.

Last August the government reduced its wheat subsidy to its largest farmers to 1,500 riyals (\$400) a tonne from the previous 2,000 riyals (\$533) and ordered them to plant one hectare of barley for every hectare of wheat in future.

Economists said the new policy could eliminate the huge Saudi barley import market, which in recent years has become the prize in a heated trade war between the European Community and the United States, with each side subsidising exports.

"The U.S. chose certain commodities and certain countries in order to make a point in its trade war with the Europeans," said one industry source. "Barley sales to Saudi Arabia were among these."

Industry sources said the USDA had a list of trade initiatives lined up. "The guns are loaded and they are waiting for a leader," said one.

Major coffee consumers to focus on cheap sales to Arab states

LONDON (R) — A dispute over cheap coffee sales to East Bloc and some Arab nations is expected to dominate talks this week over salvaging an international coffee price agreement, delegates to the talks say.

The big coffee consumers which are members of the 74-nation agreement are angry that the communist and Arab non-member states, which account for 15 to 20 per cent of world consumption, get their supplies up to 40 per cent cheaper.

They see the cut-price sales as the main obstacle to a new price agreement to replace the one which runs out in September.

"For consumers the abolition of the two-tier market is the main goal to be achieved by whatever means," said Hugo Roerig, a delegate from West Germany, one of the leading coffee importers.

At the moment the agreement aims to stabilise prices by limiting exports to the 24 consumer members, while sales to non-members are not controlled at all.

Some delegates say the solution is for non-members to join.

"There is nothing official yet, but we are holding informal consultations with non-members to

see if they will join," a producer delegate said.

Others doubt this approach will succeed.

"We tried this idea several years ago and nothing happened," one representative from a producing nation said.

This week's discussions in London will be followed by a full round of negotiations starting Feb. 20.

Igor Runov, of the Soviet ministry of foreign economic relations, said his country would attend the February talks as an observer, as it did at the last round in November.

The meeting, starting Monday, is the first between the two sides since they reached deadlock in November over how to avoid

cut-priced deals to non-members in a new agreement.

Delegates did not expect any breakthroughs but they said Tommy Johansson, chairman of the International Coffee Council, wanted consultations to see how things stood before February.

The United States, the biggest consumer, has not got any proposals ready because it is too soon after President Bush took over. But Washington has said it opposes extending the agreement as it stands beyond Sept. 30.

The European Community is still mulling over several ideas. Commodity analysts said the pressure is off the producers because world coffee prices are firm, partly because drought has nearly halved the crop in Brazil, the biggest producer.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Jan. 28, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	77.5	77.9
U.S. dollar	491.0	493.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	379.1	381.0
Pound Sterling	863.8	868.1	Dutch guilder	223.3	224.5
Deutschemark	263.2	264.5	Swedish crown	77.5	78.9
Swiss franc	309.3	310.8	Italian lira (for 100)	36.0	36.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	125.7	126.3

Dow Jones, 'Footsie' break new levels

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street's blue chips rolled to their fourth straight post-crash closing high Friday, racing past the 2,300 level in a rally underpinned by a rising dollar and a U.S. treasury bond prices.

The dollar extended its new year rally as strong commercial demand by Japanese investors overpowered joint central bank intervention against the U.S. currency.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 31.79 points to 2,322.86.

Trading was very heavy, with 254.9 million shares changing hands on the New York Stock Exchange, compared with 212.3 million Thursday. Advances outnumbered declines 919 to 617.

The stock market gained 87.50 points for the week, hitting four straight post-crash closing highs in its best weekly performance since June. The market has gained more than 150 points since the beginning of the year.

Traders said President Bush's statement at a news conference that he favoured a cut in the capital gains tax gave a healthy boost to an already strong market. A reduction in the tax on profits would be sure to heighten public interest in equities.

Bush also said that Washington should not dictate the level of corporate debt. The remark eased concerns that the government would curb leveraged buy-outs, which have galvanised the

market in the relatively quiet period since the 1987 crash, market analysts said.

A strong dollar and buoyant treasury bond prices supported the rally, which started in the morning after the government reported sluggish gross national product (GNP) growth of 2.0 per cent in the fourth quarter, news that eased inflation fears.

The smaller-than-expected GNP gain suggested that the Federal Reserve may not have to tighten credit soon, lifting treasury bond prices.

The benchmark 30-year treasury bond ended 12/32 higher at 102-14/32, depressing its yield to 8.77 per cent. That was down from 8.80 per cent at Thursday's close and was the lowest closing level since the 8.75 per cent yield on Nov. 3.

Earlier, frantic trading took the London stock market's FTSE index of 100 leading shares above 2,000 points Friday for the first time since the October 1987 crash.

The "Footsie" closed up 46.1 on the day at 2,005.9. It has risen 212 points or 11.8 per cent since the start of the year.

Dealers said that the market, which last year lagged Wall Street, Tokyo and Continental European bourses in rebounding from the crash, was ripe for a rise. Better-than-expected British balance of payments figures provided the catalyst for Friday's surge.

Big investment funds piled in to buy stock and the volume traded rose to a record for one day above one billion shares.

"Institutions are weighed down with cash and the market has been clearly undervalued throughout 1988. All that was needed was a goad to set it off and the trade figures provided that," a dealer said.

The big drag on the London market has been Britain's economy.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson cut taxes last spring and also, in line with finance ministers in other industrial nations, kept interest rates low.

The belief was that cheap money was needed to fire up economic activity, in case the loss of confidence after the crash resulted in a global slump.

But British consumers, with money in their pockets and credit easy to get, went on a spending boom, driving up inflation and also plunging the nation's trade deep in the red.

Their appetite for imported goods pushed the current account

Cocoa talks collapse

LONDON (AP) — Talks between cocoa producers and consumers on a possible market stabilisation plan collapsed Friday, opening the prospect of an indefinite block of international action to support depressed prices.

"Nothing at all was achieved," said West German spokesman Peter Baron, representing the consumers' group.

The lack of action was "deeply disappointing and frustrating," he said.

The talks at the headquarters of the 41-nation International Cocoa Organisation, which is empowered by treaty to regulate world supplies and prices, opened Jan. 19.

The main issue discussed was renewal of international action to stabilise prices through an association-financed stockpiling plan.

The association has not been supporting the market for the past year, and the price of cocoa has dropped to a 13-year low because of world over-production.

Baron said the main obstacle to introducing the stockpiling plan was lack of money resulting from the failure of producers to fulfill their obligations.

The association's 18 producers together owe the organisation a total of \$84.5 million in unpaid dues from an international levy on traded cocoa. More than half this amount is owed by the Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer.

The stockpiling plan, under

which producers would get association financial help to put up to 120,000 tons of surplus cocoa into storage, would cost an estimated \$15.6 million in a full year.

Current association resources amount to \$14.6 million. Expenses during the year ahead are estimated at \$14.2 million and income at only \$3 million.

Most of the costs would be incurred in financing the storage of a 250,000-ton stockpile of cocoa that the association bought to keep prices high. It bought the cocoa before indefinitely suspending such purchases a year ago.

Consumer delegates were angry that the consumer members of the association were paying the levy for the cocoa stockpile, while most of the producers weren't.

The producers' spokesman, Moma Mohammed of Ghana, said producers were not paying the levy because prices of cocoa had slumped on world markets and "survival comes first."

Cocoa accounts for about 70 per cent of Ghana's foreign exchange and 40 per cent of the Ivory Coast's.

Producers had wanted the stockpiling plan introduced against promises of future payment of debts, but the consumers opposed this.

The plan also remains blocked by an unresolved dispute between producers and consumers over establishing a minimum cocoa price.

The dollar ended sharply higher at 1.8650 Deutschmarks from Thursday's 1.8465 marks and surged to a 3 1/2 month high of 129.40 Japanese yen from 128.35 yen.

Commercial demand rather than speculative interest supported the dollar, which remains underpinned by high U.S. short-term interest rates, dealers said.

The dollar's rise pushed gold futures to their lowest level in four months.

Gold for February delivery fell \$7.10 to \$396.10 an ounce after dipping to \$394.50 on the commodity exchange in New York.

The decline put gold near last year's low of \$395.80, reached Sept. 26.

U.S. crude oil futures finished little changed on Thursday.

West Texas Intermediate for March delivery closed 2 cents higher at \$17.74 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

deficit for 1988 to a record £14.27 billion (\$25.25 billion), government figures Friday showed.

Lawson hiked interest rates from 7.5 per cent in early summer by stages to a present high at 13 per cent to cool the boom.

And that put a dampener on London stocks.

The stock market began to look more lively around new year on a hunch among investors, particularly big investment funds, that Lawson's medicine might be working and that 13 per cent was the top limit on interest rates.

A decline in the growth of bank and home loan lending was among factors that suggested that British consumers had begun to spend less vigorously.

Friday's trade figures, which sent the "Footsie" up above 2,000, seemed to confirm that view.

The annual 1988 deficit may have been a record. But figures also showed that the gap narrowed in December — the monthly deficit at £1.26 billion (\$2.23 billion) was down on November's £1.47 billion (\$2.6 billion).

"Markets have greeted the figures as very good indeed," said Ian Harwood, an economist at Warburg Securities.

"The markets were worried that if another rogue figure was published it would knock on the head interest rate expectations generated by recent indications that consumers are starting to pull in their horns," Harwood said.

But Roger Bootle, chief British economist at brokerage Greenwell Montague Gilt Edged, said interest rates may have peaked but that he would not completely rule out another rise.

was only a start and more ambitious plans had to follow quickly, Brittan said.

"I believe much greater liberalisation of this sector must be achieved as quickly as possible in the interests of all concerned, and I intend to pursue this goal," he emphasised.

Brittan said he would also be actively considering new moves to open up the telecommunications and energy sectors to greater competition.

"Telecommunications and energy are two other highly regulated industries where competition policy has an important part to play... to remove the many distortions which currently impede trade and stand in the way of enterprise," he said.

Brittan's speech made clear he intended to continue the tough line taken on competition enforcement in the last four years by Ireland's Peter Sutherland.

EC commissioner to pressure airlines and telecom industries

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) new commissioner for competition policy, Sir Leon Brittan, served notice Friday that he intended to shake up the bloc's airline, telecommunications and energy industries.

Brittan in his first speech since taking office earlier this month said he would be "vigilant and active" in ensuring competition policy reinforced the EC's drive to weld together its 12 national markets by the end of 1992.

"It is always competition and only competition which provides the stimulus for efficiency, for innovation and for ensuring the widest consumer choice," Brittan said in a lecture at Newcastle University in England. Extracts were released in Brussels.

Brittan, a former British trade and industry minister, made clear he opposed letting West European companies join forces "on a scale which would be monopolistic" as a means of strengthening European industry against U.S. and Japanese competition.

"I believe that such an approach would be profoundly misguided... because companies that are allowed to operate in a monopolistic way in their own home markets, whether those are national or European, are in fact unlikely to become world beaters," he said.

"Competition at home is the best training for competition abroad," he noted.

Brittan said he intended to ensure that competitive forces were applied equally among all members.

"Air travel is still too expensive in Europe and this is largely due to a plethora of restrictive practices by airlines and governments," he said.

A package of measures to introduce more competition between airlines and push down airfares that took effect last year

was only a start and more ambitious plans had to follow quickly, Brittan said.

"I believe much greater liberalisation of this sector must be achieved as quickly as possible in the interests of all concerned, and I intend to pursue this goal," he emphasised.

Brittan said he would also be actively considering new moves to open up the telecommunications and energy sectors to greater competition.

"Telecommunications and energy are two other highly regulated industries where competition policy has an important part to play... to remove the many distortions which currently impede trade and stand in the way of enterprise," he said.

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Saudi American Bank hikes profit

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's largest joint venture bank said Saturday its 1988 net profit soared by 260 per cent, a sign that the kingdom's banks may have broken out of a five-year slump.

Saudi American Bank (SAMB), the first of the country's 12 commercial banks to release 1988 earnings, said in a statement that profits rose to 235.2 million riyals (\$63 million) from 90.1 million (\$24 million) the year before.

A SAMBA spokesman said new treasury products and higher international interest rates contributed to the improvement. "The banking sector as a whole is performing better than it was two years ago," he said.

In 1987 SAMBA, owned 40 per cent by Citibank N.A. and 60 per cent by Saudi shareholders, reported its first increase in net profit in five years.

Bankers also expected strong performances from other banks.

"Interest rates have been good for all of us," said a banker in Riyadh. "Saudi banks are cash rich, and they have really been helped out in the money market."

Since the early 1980s Saudi bank profits have been hit by declining government oil revenues, low interest rates and loan repayment problems.

Lufthansa appoints new manager

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Jan. 1, 1989 Mr. Gero von Goetz arrived to take over as the new Lufthansa area manager for Jordan thus replacing Mr. Karim Joury after his retirement. Joury has been in

charge of Lufthansa in Jordan for the last 30 years.

Mr. Gero von Goetz worked for the Middle East region for the last 3 years as marketing manager for tourism.

Swissair introduces new facility

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swissair recently installed modems for laptop computer users in its first and business class lounges at Zurich and Geneva airports as well as at the Swissôtel Hotel International in Zurich and Hotel Président in Geneva. It is the first airline in the world to offer its passengers this facility.

The modems, used in conjunction with a smart card, allow access to virtually any other data

base worldwide over a separate network, thereby avoiding the difficulties sometimes experienced by laptop users in accessing other computers, data bases and electronic mailboxes via international telephone lines. The sole precondition is that the laptop must have an RS 232 interface and be equipped with conventional communications software.

The new facility is the result of a joint project by Swissair and Comco S.A., a Lausanne-based telecommunications firm established in 1982. It is planned to expand the facility by installing modems in other Swissair lounges and ultimately in all Swissair passenger lounges.

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Jan. 21, '89 and ending Wednesday Jan. 25, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	47004	117186	2,380	2,550	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1550	2916	1,830	1,900	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	32760	46785	1,470	1,420	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	4150	5101	1,220	1,230	1,000
Housing Bank	3280	6274	1,900	1,910	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	600	18000	30,000	30,000	5,000
Bank of Jordan	1089	17470	15,900	16,000	5,000
Arab Bank	4320	623338	143,500	144,500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	3430	9135	2,660	2,660	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	9660	22732	2,550	2,550	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	424258	278067	0,610	0,680	1,000
National Financial Investments	5184	10895	2,040	2,090	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	269209	254350	0,850	0,980	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	27068	29889	1,040	1,110	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	130800	83179	1,090	1,130	10,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	8179	38482	5,000	4,280	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	5425	5693	1,000	1,040	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	200	276	1,370	1,380	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Middle East Insurance	20000	27350	1,210	1,470	10,000
National Ahliya Insurance	345	476	1,380	1,380	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	42920	31698	0,760	0,700	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1,000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	9927	8411	0,830	0,840	1,000
Danco for Housing and Investment	10778	93022	0,830	0,840	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	213019	143834	0,660	0,670	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	334653	149180	0,430	0,420	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	294	201	0,620	0,750	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	231932	45460	0,680	0,700	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	48009	14284	0,770	0,800	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	36158	63363	1,730	1,750	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	400	360	0,920	0,900	1,000
Arab International Hotels	260	183	0,630	0,720	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	5000	4000	0,800	0,800	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	500	2275	4,600	4,250	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	20900	19849	0,990	0,970	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	1813	5258	2,900	2,900	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	2000	3800	1,900	1,900	1,000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	126280	81281	0,610	0,630	1,000
Jordan Dairy	33252	34829	1,020	1,050	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	41207	98780	2,300	2,490	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	1001033	1724768	1,630	1,750	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	3910	15665	3,730	4,150	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intal)	217360	352626	1,530	1,670	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	351	1542	4,300	4,400	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	474025	839880	1,670	1,830	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	34429	71463	2,070	2,100	1,000
Jordan Worsted Mills	872	4360	5,000	5,000	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	43298	75054	1,670	1,780	1,000
Chemical Industries	184703	538811	2,700	3,020	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	100110	73173	0,690	0,720	1,000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	19070	45192	2,220	2,370	1,000
National Steel Industries	62273	185549	2,900	2,970	1,000
Universal Chemical Industries	167910	541975	3,030	3,250	5,000
General Mining	50	71	1,500	1,420	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4232	36645	8,700	8,670	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	641375	155751	0,230	0,250	1,000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	48636	17965	0,360	0,370	1,000
Arab Investment and International Trade	3879	2854	0,810	0,660	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	41390	66662	1,540	1,630	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	117363	193163	1,530	1,700	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	5800	5612	0,820	0,980	1,000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	900	3200	3,500	3,500	1,000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	743766	793883	1,040	1,100	1,000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1,000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1,000
Woolen Industries	2000	1720	0,850	0,860	1,000
Jordan Tanning	75	161	2,150	2,150	5,000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1,000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	468695	623644	1,290	1,330	1,000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	403610	422566	0,960	1,080	1,000
Jordan Nitro Chemicals	50363	146262	2,870	2,940	1,000
Jordan Cement Factories	247917	312212	1,240	1,260	1,000
Jordan Glass Industries	74550	80881	1,010	1,080	1,000
Grand total	7,418,960	9,730,275			

Evert to retire in '89

LONDON (AP) — Chris Evert says she will retire from women's tennis after this season and is considering an international farewell tour, British newspapers reported Friday.

Evert, the 34-year-old American who has won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, said she was concentrating on this year's Wimbledon championship, a tournament she has won three times and that is generally considered to be among the most prestigious in sports.

"I'll be preparing especially hard for Wimbledon because I want to go out on top — or very close to it," Evert was quoted as saying in four of Britain's dozen dailies.

The top-ranked women's player in the world until October 1985, Evert has slipped to fourth in the computer ratings and has talked with increasing frequency about retirement in recent years.

She married for the second time last year, to former Olympic skier Andy Mill, and has said that

she would like to have children.

In the interview published in the British papers, Evert said she finally had decided to call it quits after 1989.

"I told the Women's International Tennis Association that this would be my last year and to let me pick and choose my tournaments," she said.

Evert said in the interview that she would skip several unidentified U.S. tournaments in which she usually competes but definitely would play Houston, Hamburg and the Italian and French Opens as well as Wimbledon.

"After Wimbledon, there is some talk that I'll play 10 matches in 10 countries and meet the top player from each one," she said. "It would take two weeks in late November and December."

Preliminary discussions have been made between Evert and NBC about her becoming a tennis commentator for the American television network, the British stories said.



Chris Evert

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Joint Cypriot team for European games

NICOSIA (AP) — The Cyprus Olympic Committee (COC) has invited Turkish Cypriot athletic clubs to join Greek Cypriot clubs in a joint Cypriot team for the third games of small states of Europe, a COC official said Friday. COC director Dinos Michaelides told the Associated Press the invitation was extended earlier this month, but there has been no response yet from the Turkish Cypriot clubs. The two communities of the war-divided island have not competed against each other or represented Cyprus jointly in sports events in nearly 30 years.

Forest manager cited for hitting fans

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough was accused by England's top soccer officials Friday of damaging the sport's image when he hit several fans after a match. Police, meanwhile, said there was insufficient evidence to bring criminal charges against Clough in the case. The Football Association filed internal charges of bringing the game into disrepute against Clough, who was caught by television cameras smacking several fans as they ran onto the field after a league cup match between Forest and Queens Park Rangers Jan. 18. The association said it would ask Clough at a hearing to explain both his action that and subsequent comments in which he reportedly said he would "do it all over again" if the situation occurred.

Italy plans World Cup infrastructure

ROME (R) — The Italian cabinet Friday approved a \$2.6 billion programme to improve tourist facilities for the 1990 World Cup soccer finals. The money, which is to be spent on transport, communications and hotels, will be distributed among the 12 cities hosting soccer's biggest tournament and will enable them to modernise local facilities for the eight million extra tourists expected in the summer of 1990, Franco Carraro, minister in charge of sport and tourism, has said the work must be completed by April 1990. It includes building new hotels, rail and road links between regional airports and city centres and modernising telephone and telex networks. Carraro told reporters after Friday's cabinet meeting that he felt the deadline could be met for nearly all projects if regional and local officials moved with determination.

Murray leads Conner in yachting challenge

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian skipper Iain Murray held a 10-point lead over U.S. opponent Dennis Conner following the second day of sailing in the ANZ 12-metre yachting challenge on Sydney harbour Saturday. Murray skippered Kookaburra II to victory in two of Saturday's three 10-point races to lead Conner, the skipper of Kookaburra III, by 30 points to 20. The eight-race series, designed to prove who is the superior 12-metre yachtsman, will be decided on Sydney harbour Sunday. The winning skipper will need to win at least two of the three 20-point races. Conner, who skippered the successful U.S. challenger Stars and Stripes during its bid to recapture the America's Cup off Fremantle, West Australia, in 1987, won the first race Saturday over an America's Cup course by 1 minute and 8 seconds. The win came after Murray was forced to make a 270 degree penalty turn at the third mark.

Kulti powers into junior singles final

MELBOURNE (AP) — Sweden's Nicklas Kulti shrugged off heat-wave conditions to power into the junior boys singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships Saturday. Kulti, 17, from Stockholm, was too strong for Swedish-born Australian Johan Anderson, winning their semifinal 6-1, 6-3 at the national tennis centre. Kulti, the tournament top seed, ran his rival ragged. He now will play second-seeded Australian Todd Woodbridge in the final Sunday. Woodbridge, 17, from Sydney, beat compatriot Jamie Morgan, the fourth seed, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 in the other semifinal. In the girls singles semifinals, Andrea Farley and Kim Kessaris set up an all-American final with wins Saturday. Third-seeded Farley, 17, beat Czechoslovakia's Eva Sviglerova, the No. 9 seed, 7-6 (7-4), 7-5.

Australian Open women's final

Graf proves unstoppable

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Steffi Graf conquered Helena Sukova, stifling heat and a nagging knee injury Saturday to win the Australian Open women's singles title for the second straight year.

Graf downed Sukova 6-4, 6-4 after a 71 minute struggle, her toughest test of the two-week tournament.

Both players found it difficult to run in the strength-sapping 37-degree celsius heat, which lifted the center court surface temperature to 62 celsius.

"It was very difficult in the heat, but I tried not to let it bother me," Graf said.

The West German was more concerned with power-serving Sukova, who led 4-3 in the first set and also rallied from 1-5 to 4-5

in the second before succumbing. "I found it really hard to get into my rhythm," Graf said. "Helena was hitting some good

shots and when somebody serves like that, it's hard to win. I couldn't serve very well or put any weight on my knee."

Graf now has a chance to become the first player to sweep the four Grand Slam tournaments two years in a row.

"I had an incredible year last year and I've started awfully well this year, but I'm not going to get

myself into trouble and say it's going to happen again," she said. "It's an awfully long year ahead and I'm not prepared to put myself under pressure." Graf added, "Winning the Grand Slam is difficult, almost impossible. I don't even like to talk about it. It's crazy to start thinking about it."

The victory gave Graf her fifth straight Grand Slam title. She was victorious in all four Grand Slam events last year and also won the gold medal at the Seoul summer Olympic Games.

Graf, 19, won the title without dropping a set, but was occasionally pressured by fifth-seeded Sukova, who missed a number of easy volleys that could have taken

her closer to victory. Graf's serve appeared to be affected by the injury to her left knee, which occurred during a doubles match Friday, although her mobility did not appear to be impaired.

Sukova, a Czech, now has a 1-9 record against the West German and is winless in three Grand Slam final appearances. Graf collected her sixth Grand Slam title overall. She won the 1987 French Open and the Australian, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles last year.

She picked up \$135,000 for the victory, while Sukova, who upset three-time champion Martina Navratilova in the quarterfinals, earned \$67,500.

Nebilo rules out resignation

SINGAPORE (R) — Controversial world athletics chief Primo Nebiolo ruled out quitting the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Saturday despite being termed an embarrassment to the sport by a West German delegate.

Nebiolo, a Turin lawyer, resigned three weeks ago as president of the Italian Athletic Federation (FIDAL) following criticism over sponsorship and business deals, and there have been increasing calls for him to quit his IAAF post.

West German delegate August Kirsch said he and several other IAAF council delegates questioned Nebiolo about his resignation and FIDAL business deals during an IAAF meeting Saturday.

"People on the council feel embarrassed because ... it has been more than a year that Nebiolo is always involved in something," Kirsch said.

Another council member who declined to be named, said: "It is not pleasant that the image of the sport is damaged because it is not good (for athletics)."

But Nebiolo said after the meeting that delegates had been satisfied he had not been involved in any wrongdoing while head of FIDAL.

Council members said Nebiolo had been questioned for 30 minutes about his resignation from FIDAL but they said there had been no calls for his resignation from the IAAF.

"I clearly explained to my council that at no time I have been in breach of the laws, the rules of IAAF or the sports authorities. On all matters the council was satisfied and expressed complete confidence in myself," Nebiolo said.

Asked if he would consider resigning, he said: "No, not at all."

He said the council had taken no formal vote of confidence.

"We did not take a vote. I have made an explanation, we have discussed it for a long time and we are happy," he said.

"What can we do if he says he is not guilty and there is no evidence he is guilty? We can only take his word for the moment. We can only hope we can end all this," Kirsch said.

Council members said there was nothing they could do until all 182 member countries meet at the IAAF congress next September in Barcelona, Spain, when a no-confidence motion against Nebiolo might be tabled.

"September is a long time away. A lot can happen in that time," Kirsch said. "But some sports officials came out openly in favour of Nebiolo. He is a good president — one

of the best. In this saga, Singapore is definitely on his side."

said Singapore Amateur Athletic Association head Loh Lin Kok, who termed the scandals "domestic Italian politics."

Pressure mounted on Nebiolo to resign from FIDAL last March after an Italian Olympic Committee inquiry found officials had rigged a long jump result at the 1987 Rome world championships which resulted in an Italian athlete wrongly being awarded the bronze medal.

Council members said Nebiolo was also questioned about FIDAL's financial dealings.

Rome's chief investigating magistrate said earlier this month that Nebiolo was under investigation on suspicion of forgery and pursuing private interests in office.

C. African championships open in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's AFC Leopards coasted to victory and Coastal Union of Tanzania and MDC United of Malawi played to a draw Saturday in opening matches of the 15th East and Central African soccer club championships.

Playing in Nairobi, the AFC Leopards beat NBC of Somalia 5-0, with two goals in the first half and three in the second. Wilberforce Mulumba scored one in each period.

In the other match at the coastal resort city of Mombasa, the Tanzanian team played to a goalless draw with the Malawi team, each side missing chances for victory because of inaccurate shooting.

Baseball balk rules loosen up

NEW YORK (AP) — The balk rules that bogged down professional baseball last season have come to a discernible stop.

The changes that led to a record 924 balks — up from 356 the previous year — are being dropped, the league announced Friday. From now on, balks will be called as they were before 1988.

No longer will pitchers be required to "make a discernible stop" in the set position, although they still must come to a complete halt. Also, pitchers no longer must have "both" feet on the ground when they set.

The clarifications were adopted in December 1987 on a one-year trial basis. The major league baseball players association, which has the right to approve or veto such changes, opposed the newer language. Baseball's rules committee made it official Thursday.

"We thought that the change, both in enforcement and language, was inappropriate and likely to force changes in the game that nobody wanted," Don

Fehr, executive director of the union, said.

"The balk rule is to be enforced in 1989 as it was in 1987 and in earlier years," Fehr said. "I expect that to be the case. I expect there will be good faith."

But the squawking about balking might continue. "They took the word 'discernible' out, but you still have to come to a complete stop. We're telling umpires that," Ed Vargo, Supervisor of National League umpires, said. "It's going to come down to judgment from the umpires. I guess we enforced it before."

Marty Springstead, supervisor of American League umpires, said this week's change "doesn't really mean much."

"I think at the end of the season, they were all pretty much coming to a stop. That's the way it was meant to be anyway," he said.

Bill Murray of the commissioner's office and a member of the rules committee, said, "I'm sure the umpires will call what they

see."

"There was a noticeable decline in the number of balks during the second half or the last third of the season," Murray said. "The pitchers became used to what the umpires were calling."

There were 253 balks in April, 190 in May and 142 in June. In September and October, a total of 106 were called.

Overall, 558 balks were called in the American League and 366 in the National League.

Dave Stewart of Oakland set a single-season record with 16 balks. Teammate Rick Honeycutt was next with 13 and he tied the AL single-game record with four.

Dennis Martinez and Pascual Perez of Montreal and David Cone of the New York Mets were tied for the NL lead with 10.

Along with balk changes, the rules committee agreed to act on a recommendation by the scoring rules committee to drop the game-winning RBI as an official statistic. The game-winning RBI was adopted by the committee in 1979 and went into effect in 1980.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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MAKE USE OF WHAT YOU KNOW

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 8 6 3		♠ A 9 4 2	
♥ A 8 2		♥ 10 5 4	
♦ 9 7 5 4		♦ 10 8 6 3	
♣ K Q 10		♣ 8 7 5 3 2	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ K Q J 10		♠ 7 5	
♥ 6 3		♥ K Q J 9 7	
♦ 10 8 6 3		♦ K Q J 2	
♣ 9 6 4		♣ A J	

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

There is a reason why certain leads are standard. The play of any card promises particular holdings, and partner can make use of that information. If you play cards willy-nilly, he can never be sure what to do.

This hand from a team game illustrates how to make intelligent use of the information you have at your disposal. At both tables the final contract was four hearts, reached on identical sequences. Since both pairs

were playing five-card majors, both Norths raised hearts despite their flat hand.

The lead at the two tables was identical—the top of West's spade sequence. At the first table, East encouraged routinely with the nine. On the spade continuation, East completed his echo by dropping the two. Declarer ruffed the third spade, drew trumps and conceded a trick to the ace of diamonds—making four-odd.

At the other table, East made better use of the information available from the opening lead. On a power auction such as the above, West would not lead an unsupported king, so his lead had to be from the top of a sequence. As long as West held fewer than five spades, East realized that he could virtually guarantee the contract's defeat.

He overtook the king of spades with the ace and cashed the ace of diamonds. Then he returned the two of spades. It did not need a genius in the West seat to realize that his partner wanted to ruff a diamond—why else would he help declarer by releasing the ace of a side suit? So the defenders collected two spade tricks, a diamond and a ruff for a one-trick set.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"This isn't fat — it's all the hostility I keep locked up inside me."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOIRN
IROYNY
TIMAD
AOMOT

MOFTEN
BOULED
DOUBLE



PERMISSIVE PARENTS DON'T MIND WHEN THEIR KIDS THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: SHINY EJECT RUBBER MIDDAY

Answer: What the billionaire left when he died — MUCH TO BE DESIRED

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Ideas formed today can have a positive influence on your lifestyle. With romantic notions and high self-esteem, it is time to get moving and take advantage of favorable items.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Disagreement can arise over recreational spending. Discipline may be needed to restrain young family members.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Stay in the company of those young at heart. Your good humored attitude will be appreciated by those close to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Today may be one of the best times to start moderating your lifestyle. Shop for items that have the class and distinction you want.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Changes in what had already been planned for the day may meet with opposition. Be patient with others.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Hanging around the house may not be a bed of roses today. Get out and away by taking care of chores, shopping or making a visit to an old friend.

Don't depend on the other one to make the first move. A happy-go-lucky attitude will serve you well. LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An intellectually stimulating companion has you out past midnight. Be sensible about your time and pleasure spending.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Friends, neighbors and relatives could all be part of a happy trend today. Put aside decisions and have some fun.

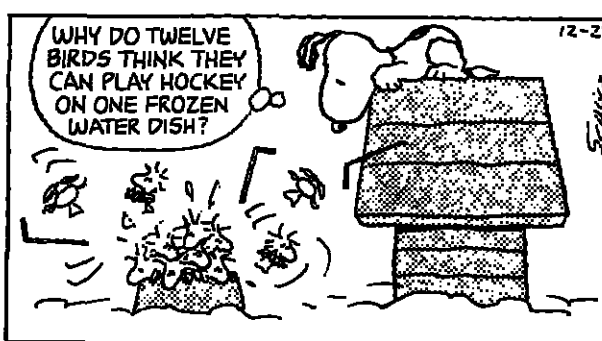
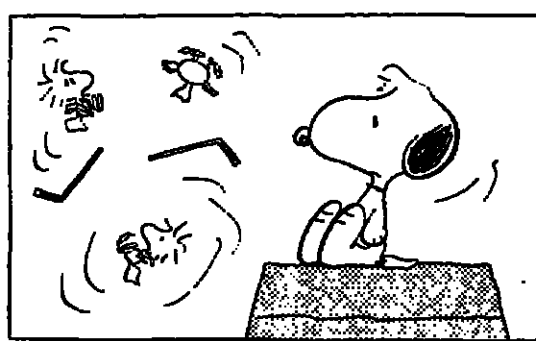
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A morning domestic upset will not last long. In the afternoon proceed as planned since the mood will lighten up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you look for flaws in others you are sure to find them. Beating that drum can only ruin a splendid relationship.

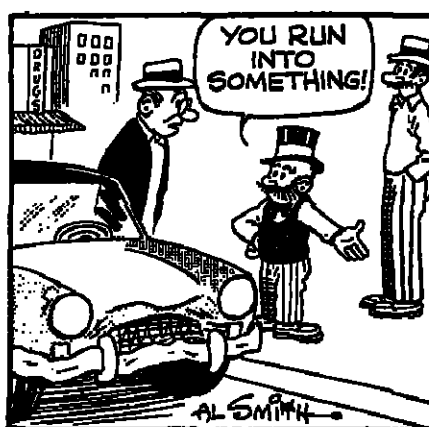
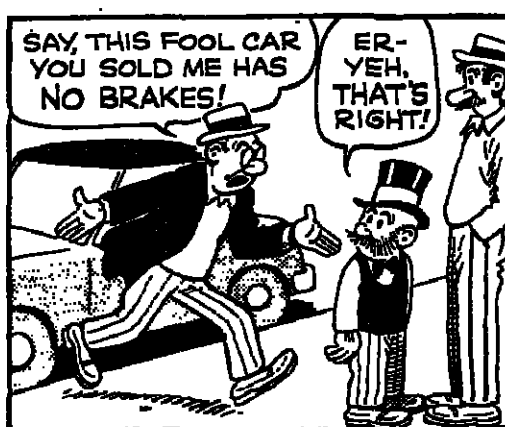
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Today a romantic theme will fit your mood nicely. Plan for early social events, dining out, a scenic drive, etc.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Today has an emphasis on home. It's a perfect day for the family to hang out together. Creative enterprises run in your favor.

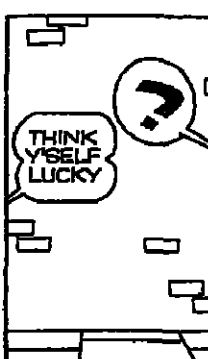
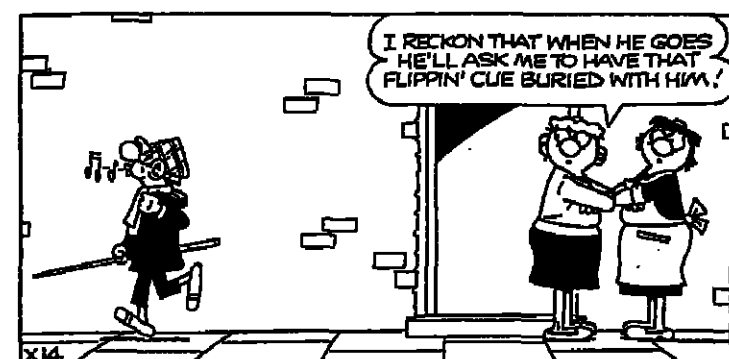
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Walesa wants breakup of power monopolies

WARSAW (R) — Lech Walesa said Saturday Solidarity wanted next month's talks with the government to start dismantling power monopolies in communist-ruled Poland.

He told a news conference a day after authorities agreed to start the talks Feb. 6 that Poland's economic, social and political crisis made him fear strikes and protests.

"Lech Walesa is afraid. The situation in the country is very difficult... every Pole has a reason to protest and say he's had enough of it," Walesa, 45, said. "We've said many times that the crisis is caused by the monopolies — the monopoly of the (Communist) Party, the monopoly of one (official) union, economic monopoly and many others," Walesa said.

"We have to break down these monopolies or just break them, call it what you like."

Asked about his expectations from the talks, the Solidarity leader said: "I expect that finally, in the political, social and economic fields, we will dismantle the

monopolies which destroy our efforts and prevent the development (of Poland)."

The Communist Party agreed last week after heated debates that Solidarity's return to legality could be discussed at the talks, signalling its readiness to end a six-year shopfloor monopoly by the communist-led OPZZ unions set up in 1982.

Poland's rulers, fearful of popular unrest, want to strike a deal with Solidarity and the opposition on a broad "anti-crisis pact," or pro-reform coalition.

They are offering widened political, economic and social freedoms — including Solidarity's return — in exchange for opposition backing for austerity measures and market-oriented reforms that may cause social dislocation and hardship.

The proposed freedoms, to be discussed at the talks, include broader rights to form associations and political clubs and an offer to the opposition of a substantial number of seats in parliament and in the government.

Walesa said he expected the

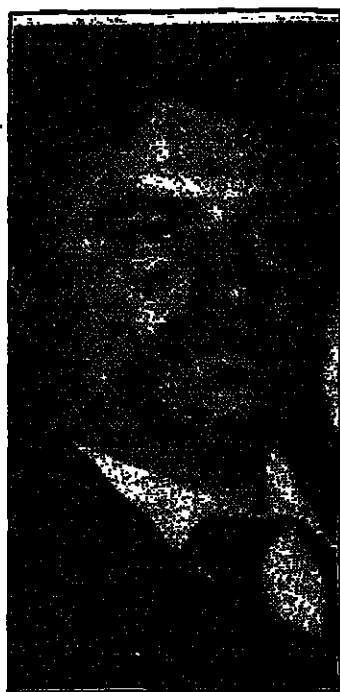
talks, which will include representatives of Poland's powerful Roman Catholic Church, independent intellectuals, pro-government groups and the OPZZ unions, to last about six weeks.

"We are condemned to an agreement. We have to seek an agreement for our youth, for ourselves, to emerge from this crisis, to get the situation under control, for our own safety," he said.

The OPZZ resented the party's haste in agreeing to restore Solidarity. It boycotted a preparatory meeting between Walesa and Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak Friday but its leaders agreed Saturday to join the talks "as an independent force."

Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski Friday underlined the urgency of the crisis, saying Poland's economy was "on the edge of the abyss." He urged workers to scale down wage demands. If the demands continued, "we will all be finished," he said.

Walesa rebuffed a proposal by Rakowski for a two-year strike moratorium as unrealistic, saying



Lech Walesa

he could not oppose radical young workers or strikes.

"But I call for wisdom, I call for getting organised to solve all our problems," Walesa said. "We have to build Poland, we will not solve problems with strikes."

He said Solidarity had learned a lot since its 1980-81 era of legality that ended with its suppression under martial law.

Bonn gives hesitant support for missile 'modernisation'

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — West German Defence Minister Rupert Scholz gave hesitant support to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) plans to modify short-range nuclear missiles Saturday, drawing fire from supporters and opponents of upgrading the weapons for being too vague.

In a speech to allied defence experts, Scholz tread a careful path between U.S. calls for refitting the missiles to extend their range and West German public opinion, which is strongly against what experts call "modernisation."

The defence minister became embroiled in a major political controversy in Bonn a month ago for saying modernisation was likely inevitable. He told the defence experts gathered here for an annual strategy conference only that the alliance's missiles "must be kept modern."

He mentioned West Germans' resistance to U.S. calls for redistribution of alliance expenses, prompting accusations from U.S. politicians that Europeans have not been pulling their financial weight.

U.S. Defence Secretary-designate John Tower got a round of applause when he arrived at the conference, but sat quietly through the exchanges sharply dividing the allied representatives.

The opening day of the

weekend conference churned up most of the disputes among the 16 allies of NATO that have been troubling the alliance for the past few years.

At issue is the degree to which the West should take advantage of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's disarmament overtures when the course and stability of Kremlin reforms remain uncertain.

A 1983 NATO decision to refit existing short-range missiles to extend their range beyond the current limit of 500 kilometres is increasingly unpopular among Europeans, especially West Germans, who see those plans as an obstacle to further arms control progress.

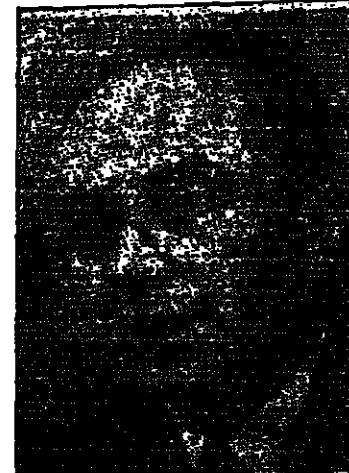
West German leaders have not yet made it clear where they stand on modernising the weapons despite strong pressure from their U.S. allies.

Scholz echoed U.S. concerns about the Kremlin's willingness to relinquish its military might, but carefully skirted direct mention of West Germany's attitude toward the missile modifications.

Heavy criticism

U.S. Senator Warren Rudman told Scholz after his address that it appeared "you kind of want to have it both ways."

He blasted the European allies, saying they were shirking additional costs of security for the



Rupert Scholz

bloc. He also claimed that as much as 60 per cent of the U.S. military budget goes for NATO-related defence.

Scholz also drew fire from West German opposition Social Democrat Karsten Voigt for failing to make himself or the Bonn government clear on the issue of modernisation.

"You were really perfect when it comes to being vague," Voigt told the defence minister.

Speaking for those West Germans opposed to the modernisation plan seen by the Kremlin as an arms buildup, Voigt criticised U.S. insensitivity about the difference in security risks faced by East-West front-line states such as Germany.

Possible nuclear programme threatens U.S. aid to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (R) — United States aid to Pakistan may be cut off because the U.S. is unlikely to be able to certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

Without such certification, required annually by law, Pakistan would not be eligible to receive U.S. economic and military aid beyond the current financial year, which ends Sept. 30.

The newspaper, quoting congressional and administration sources, said the former Reagan administration told Congress such certification is unlikely this year.

Pakistan had been told of the U.S. conclusion but it was not known whether President Bush would stick by it, the report said.

Pakistan has nuclear research facilities but has repeatedly denied that it planned to make

nuclear weapons.

The Reagan administration budget for the 1990 financial year, starting next Oct. 1, includes a request for \$621 million in aid to Pakistan, part of a \$4.02 billion six-year package.

Last November President Reagan certified to Congress that Pakistan did not possess a nuclear device.

But he indicated in an attached letter to House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright that the administration was nearing its limits of being able to continue making the certification, the Post said.

"The Congress should be aware," Reagan was quoted as writing, "that as Pakistan's nuclear capabilities grow, and if evidence about its activities continue to accumulate, this process of annual certification will require the president to reach judgments

about the status of Pakistani nuclear activities that may be difficult or impossible to make with any degree of certainty."

A White House spokesman declined substantive comment, saying only that Reagan had made the certification. The Post quoted an unidentified administration official as adding: "If the present trend continues, we would not be able to certify again."

Congress has been reluctant to cut off aid to Pakistan because of its role as a pipeline to anti-communist guerrillas fighting Soviet forces in neighbouring Afghanistan.

But with Soviet troops moving into the final phase of their withdrawal from Afghanistan under a U.N.-brokered agreement, the Post said, Pakistan's strategic importance may weigh less in congressional calculations.

African nations try to close ranks against waste imports

DAKAR (R) — West and central African countries sought Friday to close ranks to stop imports of toxic waste, many complaining that the continent was becoming the dustbin of the industrialised world.

"The trend in Africa is towards banning imports of toxic waste altogether. A lot of African countries will no longer accept waste, industrial or domestic," one delegate said.

African ministers are meeting European officials to try to find common ground ahead of crucial talks next week in Luxembourg on an international agreement strictly limiting movements of toxic waste.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which has spearheaded the drive for an international accord, hopes next

week's talks will be the final round of negotiations, clearing the way for an agreement to be signed in March.

A series of recent scandals, in which toxic waste from the industrialised world has been found dumped in developing countries without any regard for public health, has prompted demands in Africa and elsewhere for an end to the export trade.

Industrialised countries, unable to find space at home to dump waste because of public pressure have been turning increasingly to developing countries for cheap dumping sites.

In one case, around 4,000 tonnes of Italian toxic waste were found in leaking and dented barrels in Nigeria.

Now UNEP is pressing for an international agreement which

would limit exports of toxic waste to countries which proved they had adequate facilities to treat it.

Exporters would have to give details of all shipments to a new international watchdog body. Developing countries would be encouraged to ban imports altogether.

The agreement would also encourage the transfer of technology to developing countries so that they were more able to treat their own industrial and domestic waste.

The main issue of contention is how strictly the agreement should clamp down on the exports.

On one side are those led by UNEP who say developing countries should welcome the financial and technical help in managing their own waste.



Benazir Bhutto

Pakistanis vote in by-election

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistanis started voting in parliamentary by-elections Saturday after a passionate three-week campaign in the country's new democratic era.

Three million people were eligible to vote for 13 National Assembly seats and seven provincial seats just two months after Pakistan's first party-based elections returned the country to democracy following 11 years of military rule.

Most of the contests were straight fights between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

They were unlikely to alter the balance of power as most of the National Assembly contests were in IDA-controlled Punjab, the richest and most populous of Pakistan's four provinces.

But considerable prestige would be at stake if there were surprises, political analysts said.

Most of the elections were needed either because a candidate won in more than one parliamentary constituency, as Pakistan election rules allow, or because a candidate was elected to both a national and provincial seat and cannot sit in both.

The most critical contest was for the IDA, whose leader Nawaz Sharif chose to become Punjab chief minister after last November's elections in preference to sitting in the national assembly.

That decision left the IDA without a nationally-known leader to oppose Bhutto in the National Assembly, where the PPP won most seats, but not an overall majority.

To rectify the lack, the IDA has put its weight behind Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a feudal landlord who lost embarrassingly last November in his home province of Sind.

The IDA gave Jatoi what it hoped would be a safe seat in a sprawling rural constituency in Punjab.

IRA to cut civilian deaths

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Republican Army guerrillas have pledged they will try to reduce civilian casualties after killing 23 people by mistake in a string of botched attacks.

"Many civilians died in operations which dented the confidence of some of our supporters," an IRA spokesman said in an interview with Republican News, its Irish nationalist weekly.

The surprisingly frank interview coincided with the opening in Dublin Friday of the annual conference of Sinn Fein, political wing of the IRA which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Since November, 1987, 23 people have been killed in bungled IRA attacks and the spokesman said: "There is a greater realisation

than ever of the need for the IRA to avoid civilian casualties."

The IRA disarmed and disbanded one of its border "active service units" last Tuesday after two civilian killings provoked widespread revulsion.

Alluding to the rare move that highlighted disarray in the guerrilla group, the IRA spokesman said "We have tried to rectify the reasons why mistakes were made."

He added "we have a responsibility to correct the problems and refine our activities."

That suggested that the guerrilla group would try to confine itself in future to what it considers legitimate targets — British soldiers, police and magistrates in Northern Ireland.

The IRA have lost 25 gunmen

in the past three months and several arms caches seized.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams is trying to widen the revolutionary party's base of popular support, bidding to win the backing of non-IRA supporters among Irish nationalists.

Adams, eager for ballot gains in Northern Ireland's local elections in May and the European parliamentary elections in June, has been sharply critical of bungled IRA attacks, telling them to "get their house in order."

The IRA spokesman conceded in the interview: "Undoubtedly some operations with the past year have created difficulties for everyone."

U.S., rebels try to keep Salvador peace plan alive

SAN SALVADOR (Agencies) — U.S. officials and leftist guerrillas have found themselves in the unusual position of agreeing El Salvador was too hasty in rejecting a rebel peace proposal and both say they want to keep debate alive.

"There is a willingness in Washington to see how much mileage is in this. It's a serious document. We should see if it's a serious proposal," said a U.S. embassy source.

The rebel proposal containing major concessions was made as the new Bush administration examined its policy toward a country where the United States has spent \$3 billion trying to defeat leftist guerrillas and set up stable civilian rule.

National Security Adviser

Brent Scowcroft has said in Washington he saw things turning full circle to the early years of the conflict in El Salvador.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), whose struggle has cost 70,000 lives since 1979, Monday offered to recognise elections if they were postponed up to six months.

The rebels also asked for guarantees to ensure a free vote and the safety of leftist candidates.

The FMLN has previously opposed elections on the grounds that conditions of war and repression made them an empty exercise designed only to legitimise the counter-insurgency effort.

The Christian Democratic government and the rightist

Nationalist Republican Alliance, both in the midst of campaigning for March 19 presidential elections, immediately dismissed the rebel proposal.

They called it a trap designed to give the FMLN an excuse to intensify the war and said it violated the 1983 constitution.

"This is not a proposal for peace, it is a proposal for war," said President Jose Napoleon Duarte, demanding that the FMLN disarm.

The next day, however, U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman welcomed the proposal and said it deserved serious consideration.

The embassy source said those comments were directed in part at the Salvadoreans.

Dirty AIDS needles infect 27 Soviet toddlers

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet doctors plan to test 3,000 children for possible AIDS infection after 27 toddlers were found to have contracted the disease in hospital, apparently from dirty needles, Komsomolskaya Pravda said Saturday.

The public prosecutor's office has begun an inquiry into how they contracted the virus, the newspaper said, although suspicion points at unsterilised syringes.

In an interview with Soviet television late Friday, a leading AIDS specialist said the number of children infected during their stay in the children's hospital of Elista might turn out to be far higher.

The 27 children, all around the age of two, tested positive for AIDS after treatment in the

hospital and four of the mothers subsequently picked it up from them. The trade union newspaper TRUD said one child had since died.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said all the infected children were in the hospital between April and December last year.

"It is most probable that all the children were infected at the hospital through carelessness of the nurses who used syringes and needles which had not been subject to elementary sterilisation," the newspaper said.

V.V. Pokrovsky, head of the country's central AIDS laboratory, told the newspaper it was not clear how the virus was introduced into the hospital, although one theory was a child had contracted it from its mother or infected blood.

He said there were also fears that nurses providing unofficial treatment for people with venereal disease used the syringes again on the children.

"The figure for those infected might double or even triple," Pokrovsky told Soviet television.

Mothers of the infected children told the newspaper that standards of hygiene in the hospital were appalling and staff were lazy and rude.

"Rats and cockroaches are running about the floor and nobody seems to worry about them," one mother said.

A woman reporter on the outspoken weekly Moscow News recently wrote of the horrors of having a baby in one of Moscow's leading maternity clinics.

She described dirt-encrusted

wards, poor sanitary facilities and how she had to lie for days in the same blood-stained sheets.

The Elista case highlights the ill-preparedness of many medical personnel for the fight against AIDS.

The number of registered Soviet AIDS sufferers is low compared with Western countries but has been growing rapidly. TASS said 146 people were infected with the virus, against 33 at the beginning of last year.

There are conflicting reports about how many have since died. TASS put the death toll to date at three, but Komsomolskaya Pravda spoke of six cases, without detailing them.

The Soviet Union reported its first AIDS death, a prostitute from Leningrad, in October.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettemson

FOR THE BIRDS

By Frances Burton

ACROSS

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